The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

SPECIAL EDITION

WHOLE NO. 1283 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1935 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 25, NO. 46

55TH ANNUAL AFL CONVENTION

Five Hundred and Seven Delegates, Representing 322 Organizations, Attend Two Week's Session of Organized Labor's Parliament.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The fifty-fifth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor was held in Atlantic City, N. J., October 7 to 19, 1935.

It was one of the largest and most important conventions ever held by the A. F. of L.

There were 507 delegates in attendance, representing 94 National and International Unions, 35 State Federations of Labor, 89 City Central Bodies, 101 Federal and Local Trade Unions, and three Departments of the American Federation of Labor. In addition, there were three fraternal delegates.

The annual convention of the American Federation of Labor is organized labor's parliament. It is in effect Labor's Parliament and Supreme Court in one body.

The 1935 convention was confronted with many stupendous problems.

With millions of able-bodied adults still deprived of the right to earn a decent living and millions more working part time, the convention demanded

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

1st Vice President FRANK DUFFY

2nd Vice President T. A. RICKERT

3rd Vice President MATTHEW WOLL

Secretary and Treasurer Pro Tem FRANK MORRISON

President WILLIAM GREEN

4th Vice President JOHN COEFIELD

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6th Vice President JOSEPH N. WEBER

7th Vice President G. M. BUGNIAZET

8th Vice President GEO. M. HARRISON

9th Vice President DANIEL J. TOBIN

10th Vice President, WM. L. HUTCHESON

11th Vice President JOHN L. LEWIS

12th Vice President DAVID DUBINSKY

13th Vice President HARRY C. BATES

14th Vice President EDWARD J. GAINOR

15th Vice President W. D. MAHON

GREEN OPPOSES GERMAN STEEL

A. F. of L. President Protests to Secretary Ickes Against Nazi Material Being Used in Construction of New York Triborough Bridge Financed with WPA Funds—Says Plan Means Work for German Workers While Millions of Americans Are Idle.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, submitted a vigorous written protest to Harold L. Ickes, Public Works Administrator, against the purchase with WPA funds of German manufactured steel to be used in the construction of the New York Triborough Bridge. The protest was filed in the name and in behalf of the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor.

In the protest President Green stated:

"Inasmuch as Congress appropriated the funds for public works projects in order to relieve unemployment and alleviate widespread

(Continued on Page 4)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

The following topical summary of the declarations of the Fifty-fifth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, held in Atlantic City, N. J., October 7 to October 19, 1935, is compiled from the official daily text of the convention proceedings:

A

ALIEN THEATRICAL WARDROBE ATTENDANTS.

The convention adopted a resolution authorizing the AFL Executive Council to consult with the United States Immigration Department in connection with a policy of foreign theatrical companies entering the United States bringing costumers and wardrobe attendants with them to take charge of the wardrobe department. It was pointed out that approximately 80 per cent of the wardrobe attendants already in the United States had been unemployed most of the time for the past five years and that the work performed by the foreign attendants should be done by Americans.

AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

Advertisements. — The convention adopted a resolution declaring that "the American Federationist is hereby prohibited from the acceptance of advertisements or paid printing of any character from concerns which do not generally recognize and practice collective bargaining with legitimate organizations of labor." The AFL Executive Council was directed to executive this policy.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS.

Investigation. — The convention instructed the President and the Executive Council of the AFL to make a thorough investigation of the "charges publicly made" that the American Federation of Teachers is controlled by those "openly hostile to the principles of the American Federation of Labor," with the proviso that at the conclusion of the investigation the President and Executive Council "are authorized and directed to take such action as the facts may warrant and to notify all state federations of labor and central labor unions of such facts and their action thereon." The resolution on which this action of the convention was based declared that local unions of the Teachers Federation "claiming to represent more than 60 per cent of the membership" withdrew from the 1935 convention of the Federation with the public statement that the convention had been packed with a group, "not eligible under their constitution for membership," many of whom "are openly hostile to and opposed to the principles of the American Federation of Labor."

AMERICAN LIBERTY LEAGUE.

Labor Relations Act Opinion Condemned.—The convention condemned as unethical the tactics and methods used by the lawyers committee of the American Liberty League in issuing an opinion that the National Labor Relations Act is unconstitutional. The convention declared that although the committee professed to give a disinterested legal opinion, the group "consists of corporation lawyers who have repeatedly sought to nullify measures which do not meet with the approval of their clients, and their opinion is therefore the expression of their clients' opposition to the measure and not the unbiased opinion of lawyers interested in a consideration of the actual constitutional validity of the act."

AMERICAN YOUTH ACT.

The convention refused to endorse a resolution recommending the passage by the United States Congress of the proposed "American Youth Act" sponsored by the American Youth Congress, but instructed the AFL Executive Council "to continue its efforts for the relief and protection of youth" and "to support such legislation as may be effective for this purpose and in accord with the principles of the American Federation of Labor." The defeated resolution charged that the wages and benefits provided by the National Youth Administration are inadequate and that student and trade union organized youth are not represented in the Administration. To remedy these alleged delinquencies the proposed law would confer upon "youth itself" the responsibility for the "administration of the program for the welfare of American youth," in cooperation with "representatives of organized labor, social service, education and consumers organizations," acting through the Secretary of Labor and the Commissioner of Education.

ANTI-INJUNCTION LEGISLATION.

State Laws.—The convention approved the work of the Executive Council in connection with the enactment of state anti-injunction laws based on the Norris-LaGuardia Act and urged every possible effort to secure this legislation in the 29 states which have not passed the injunction laws.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING.

Federal Apprenticeship Training Committee.—In regard to the Federal Apprenticeship Training Committee established by the Secretary of Labor to guide an apprentice training program, consisting of representatives of the Office of Education, the National Recovery Administration, the United States Department of Labor, and organized labor and industry, the convention approved the declaration of the AFL Executive Council that the American Federation of Labor is willing to cooperate with the committee in such a way as will not interfere with the apprenticeship rules and regulations already established by the national and international unions. The convention recommended that close cooperation and vigilance be exercised with the Apprenticeship Training Committee's work and that labor organizations exercise great care with regard to state and local committees and projects.

B

BANKS.

Government Ownership.—The convention nonconcurred with a resolution favoring "government ownership of our banking institutions so the people may have a safe place to deposit their money and be able to get loans at a reasonable rate of interest for purchase of homes and other legitimate needs."

BITUMINOUS COAL INDUSTRY.

Stabilization Law.—The convention congratulated the United Mine Workers of America for the enactment of the Guffey-Snyder Stabilization Law for the bituminous coal industry. The bill provides for the establishment of fair trade and labor practices and a method for adjusting hours and wages.

BLACK-CONNERY 30-HOUR WEEK BILL.

The convention approved the activities of the AFL Executive Council to secure the passage by Congress of the thirty-hour week bill sponsored by Senator Hugo L. Black, of Alabama, and Representative William P. Connery, Jr., of Massachusetts, and instructed the Council to continue its efforts to secure the enactment of the measure.

BOYCOTT OF SHEEP PRODUCTS.

The convention refused to place a boycott on wool, lamb and mutton in case the wool growers associations in certain western states continue to employ non-union sheep shearers and non-union contractors, requested by the Sheep Shearers Union of North America, recommending instead that the controversy be referred to the AFL Executive Council with instructions to initiate conferences between the wool growers state associations and state federations of labor in states where the anti-union policy operates in the endeavor to settle the dispute according to union principles and to assist the Sheep Shearers Union in every possible manner in such conferences. In case the conferences do not result in "the establishment of conditions of employment accetable to the Sheep Shearers Union" the convention instructed the officers and Executive Council of the Federation to "take such further action as in their judgment may be advisable."

BREMERTON NAVY YARD.

Employment of Relief Workers.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution charging that emergency relief workers are employed with the regular craftsmen of the Bremerton Navy Yard at Bremerton, Wash., at wages much below the regular scale for permanent employes, with instructions to investigate the charges and consult with the crafts concerned relative to remedying the situation.

BUILDING TRADES DEPARTMENT.

The convention approved an agreement for settling the disputes among the several building trades organizations, according to which a committee of six building trades representatives, three selected by each of the two groups, were authorized to settle the differences by a majority vote, with the provision that if the committee was unable to agree they would name a seventh member by a majority vote. The committee was instructed to reach an agreement not later than thirty days from the date when the plan received the approval of the convention and submit it to a convention of the building trades for ratification. Pending the action of the proposed convention, neither of the building trades groups was recognized by the American Federation of Labor as the Building Trades Department.

BUYING AMERICAN GOODS.

The convention urged the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor to promote as far as possible the buying of American goods and to look for the union label on them. The convention declared that goods made in foreign countries are produced by workers whose living standards are lower than in the United States and emphasized the point that if these articles were made in America large numbers of the unemployed would be re-employed, thus eliminating suffering and raising the American standard of living.

C

CENTRAL LABOR BODIES.

Education Committees.—In order to have the voice of the workers expressed in meeting educational problems the convention recommended that every central labor union appoint a committee on education composed of trade unionists interested and active in this field, and secure labor representation on local boards of education and on the board of directors of the Public Library. The convention also recommended that reports on problems and work and current information relative to local educational problems be cleared through the offices of the American Federation of Labor.

Jurisdiction Disputes.—In regard to a resolution providing that "no central body shall engage in any jurisdiction dispute between local, national or international unions, without being so instructed by the president of the American Federation of Labor," the convention held that the subject was already covered by Article 11, Section V of the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor which precludes the delegation to any subordinate branch of the Federation executive power over subordinate unions of any affiliate, international or national union.

Trade Union Publicity.—Among methods for presenting the purposes and objectives of organized labor to the general public the convention recommended that central labor councils should conduct public discussion periods as part of their regular sessions, encourage union label exhibitions, develop training institutions and colleges for labor leadership and cooperate with the Workers Education Bureau in promoting an adequate program of workers education.

CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT.

Election of Favorable Legislatures.—The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to make ratification of the amendment one of the major issues of the Federation and to request central bodies and state federations of labor in states that have not already adopted the amendment to mobilize all their energy in campaigns favoring the amendment. To forward this movement the convention declared that all candidates for state legislatures in states which have not yet acted favorably on the amendment be asked to commit themselves for or against it, that those who favor it should have labor's active support and those who oppose it should be defeated. The convention urged that the position of the candidates be published in the local papers in their respective communities and that all other possible publicity be given to the position of the candidates so that "trade unionists may be informed who are their friends on the ballot."

Interstate Compacts.—The convention expressed its belief that interstate compacts providing uniform and standard conditions of employment and minimum wages for women and minors are being used as a medium for preventing the adoption of the child labor amendment to the Federal Constitution and warned state federations of labor to exercise the highest degree of care relative to compacts containing provisions governing child labor.

CIVIL SERVICE.

Educational Qualifications.—The convention condemned the practice of limiting to high school and college graduates civil service examinations for "clerical, supervisory and other positions in the general recovery and re-employment activity." It was charged that these limitations "amount to discrimination against those whose circumstances have demanded they labor instead of attending school" and "affects literally millions of American citizens and actually deprives these workers of sympathetic representation in countless circumstances." In order to promote changes in the educational tests complained about the convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to confer with the United States Civil Service Commission and the proper federal and state examining agencies relative to a remedy for the discrimination against persons who do not have certificates of graduation from high schools and colleges regardless of their practical experience and to take any other action found necessary to abolish the injustice resulting from the rigid and exclusive educational tests.

CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYES.

Displacement by Emergency Workers.—Acting on information that the maintenance and repair work on United States Government property is being and has been performed by emergency workers, resulting in the displacement of permanent Civil Service employes, the convention emphasized its purpose to continue its efforts to stop this practice.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS.

The convention urged a continuance of Civilian Conservation Corps camps and an expansion of their educational service, the responsibility for the development of which the convention declared should be placed in the United States Office of Education. Pointing out that the camps are a notable experiment in adjusting American youth to the machine age, the convention emphasized their voluntary and democratic character and freedom from militarism and approved the policy of placing the administration of the camps in the hands of "responsible and experienced trade union officials."

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACTS.

Observance.—The convention stressed the importance of keeping "inviolate the terms and conditions of agreements with employers" and declared that "every effort should be put forth to establish in the minds of executives in our industrial society that Organized Labor, under the American Federation of Labor, are responsible agencies, and that an agreement or contract whenever entered into becomes, in fact, an agreement to be lived up to during the duration of its existence."

COLORED WORKERS.

The convention concurred in the report of the AFL Executive Council regarding the conditions of colored workers in the United States and their relation to the labor movement. The committee appointed by President Green to investigate this subject reported that a few national and international unions deny membership to negroes, but that in most of these instances special provisions are made to organize negroes into federal labor unions directly chartered by the American Federation of Labor, and that in some national and international unions negroes are placed in separate local unions with varying rights of membership. The declaration of the Council on this subject, which the convention adopted, said:

"We are of the opinion that since each affiliated national and international union has complete autonomy that the welfare of the negro worker will be best served by a campaign of education of white workers to bring to them the necessity of solidarity in the ranks of the workers and the voluntary elimination of all restrictions against full rights of membership to the nego.

"The American Federation of Labor has consistently advocated the organization of all workers and we reaffirm that policy. The economic welfare of the workers can best be served by complete unity of purpose and action. We therefore recommend that all national and international unions and the American Federation of Labor conduct a continuous campaign of education to bring to the white worker the necessity for greater unity of the workers in the labor movement to the end that all discrimination against negroes will be removed."

COMMUNISTS.

In order to combat the propaganda and activities of Communists against the organized labor movement the convention amended Section 5, Article IV of the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor by inserting the following provision: "No organization officered or controlled by Communists, or any person espousing Communism, or advocating the violent overthrow of our institutions shall be allowed representation or recognition in any central body or state federation of labor."

COMPANY UNIONS.

The convention reaffirmed its declarations against company unions and emphasized the necessity of combatting them and organizing in bona fide unions those workers who have been forced to join them. The convention pointed out that the American Federation of Labor use its full energies to secure the enactment of the Wagner Labor Relations Bill, which prohibits employers from financing or otherwise supporting unions and confers upon the National Labor Relations Board adequate enforcement authority.

CONLEY, ANDREW.

Fraternal Delegate.—The convention presented an engraved watch and chain to Andrew Conley, general secretary of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, Leeds, England, and one of the fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress, as a token of the appreciation of the officers and delegates. Mrs. Conley did not accompany the British delegates, but the convention presented her with an engraved wrist watch through Mr. Conley.

CONSUMERS' RESEARCH, INC.

Anti-Union Policy.—The convention instructed the officers and Executive Council to render all assistance possible to Technical, Editorial and Office Assistants' Union No. 20055, Washington, N. J., to settle the dispute of the union with Consumers' Research, Inc. In the event of failure to bring about a satisfactory settlement, the officers and Executive Council were directed to urge the American Federation of Labor affiliate unions and central and state bodies "to support the strike of Local 20055 to secure union conditions and union recognition" and to "appeal to all consumer organizations and individual consumers to join with organized labor in protesting the anti-labor policies of Consumers' Research, Inc." According to information presented to the convention, this concern discharged three active members of the union, including one union officer, on the day the union applied for recognition last August. The employes struck against this anti-labor action of the company. Following the strike, according to the union, the company intimidated union members, forced members out of the union by false accusations of racketeering and dishonesty against union leaders, secured an injunction against picketing, had pickets and strike sympathizers arrested, employed armed guards and a strikebreaking detective agency, induced firing on pickets, incited vigilante action, and in conjunction with these subversive activities refused to deal with or accept correspondence from the union.

CONVENTION CITY, 1936.

Tampa, Florida, was selected as the city for the 1936 convention of the American Federation of Labor.

CONVICT LABOR.

Ashurst-Sumners Act.—The convention expressed its gratification at the progress made in the elimination of competition of prison-made goods with those produced by free labor in the passage of the Ashurst-Sumners Act, which prohibits the interstate transportation of prison-made goods into states where the state-use system is in operation. The Act supplements the Hawes-Cooper law, which authorizes a state to prohibit the sale of prison-made goods from another state if the former state's laws provide that its own convict-made goods cannot be sold in the open market. The convention urged renewed efforts to have the Hawes-Cooper Act made the law in the 24 states which have not as yet adopted it.

COUGHLIN, REV. CHARLES E.

Automotive Workers Industrial Association.—The convention declared its vigorous disapproval of the action of Rev. Charles E. Coughlin in supporting the Automotive Workers' Industrial Association as calculated to destroy the United Automobile Workers of America, declaring that the dual union "divides instead of unites."

CUBA.

Anti-Union Policy.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council for investigation and such action as the circumstances warrant a resolution condemning the "anti-trade union actions of the Batista-Mendieta dictatorship of Cuba" and demanding that it "cease its military supervision and terrorism of the Cuban working class, and particularly of organized Cuban labor," and "restore all civil liberties and the right to organize and strike." The resolution also recommended that an AFL committee be appointed to contact with the Cuban labor movement, keep American workers informed as to Cuban labor conditions, and endeavor to establish a close solidarity between American and Cuban workers.

CUTTING, BRONSON.

The convention rose in a body as a tribute of respect to the late Senator Bronson Cutting for his action in the United States Senate in having written into the Unemployment Relief Bill a provision setting aside forty million dollars to keep the public schools open and for his strong championship of human rights in general.

D

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Cheap Substitutes.—The convention declared in favor of legislation to protect consumers against cheap substitutes for dairy products and to impose on them federal, state and local taxes. The resolution pointed out that because of unemployment and inadequate wages during the depression wage earners and their families have been compelled to use cheap substitutes for high-class health-giving foods such as milk, butter and other dairy products and declared that medical authorities trace the increase in certain eye diseases of workers' children to the lack of vitamin A in these substitutes, of which their diet is largely composed. The resolution also said the legislation taxing these products is also necessary to protect dairy farmers and their families against destructive competition.

DIEGAS & CLUST.

Anti-Union Policy.—The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to use its good offices in bringing about a satisfactory adjustment of the dispute of the International Jewelry Workers' Union with Diegas & Clust, New York City, manufacturers of fraternity, scholastic and emblematic jewelry and sports goods, and in case of failure to do so that "every possible publicity be given to the attitude of the firm." According to information presented to the convention, this concern, after operating their factory under an agreement with Jewelry Workers Local No. 1 since November 6, 1933, locked out its employes without notification on June 28, 1935, and resisted all attempts of both the international and local union to settle the dispute.

E

EAGLE PICHER LEAD CO.

Anti-Union Policy.—The long strike of 4,000 men employed by the Eagle Picher Lead Company for recognition of the union and better working conditions was referred by the convention to the AFL Executive Council with instructions to inform the United States Government regarding the actions of the company and to endeavor to persuade the government to refuse to purchase "any materials containing in whole or in part" the products of the company. According to information presented to the convention, the strikers, who are members of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, walked out when the company refused to deal with the union and remedy grievances. It was stated that in their efforts to break the strike and keep the workers unorganized the company resorted to "savage, brutal and un-American" methods and tactics, including "violence and bloodshed." Before the men were organized the company paid wages of only 90 cents for a work day of ten hours.

EDUCATION.

Federal Aid.—Declaring that unless adequate emergency aid is rendered immediately "thousands of schools must be closed" and "millions of children will be denied an opportunity to a free public school education" the convention urged direct federal grants to the states to enable them to keep their schools open, loans to educational institutions at low interest rates, refinancing state and municipal commercial paper at reduced interest charges to prevent further curtailment of educational work, and continued appropriations from federal work relief funds for the emergency educational program in workers education nursery school forums. The convention held these measures are necessary in order to "afford every child an opportunity for adequate schooling" and to keep children out of factories.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE (AFL).

The convention recommended that the Permanent Committee on Education of the A. F. of L. be asked to initiate a study for the purpose of determining organized labor's permanent policy in connection with a "more equitable system of taxation that will in the future sufficiently augment the resources of the states and their political subdivisions so as to enable them to maintain a school system without federal aid."

EGGS.

Importation. — The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to consider the advisability of legislation designed to increase the tariff on "cheap Oriental eggs," the importation of which by Swift & Company and other companies was alleged to be undermining the farmers' cooperative movement and the living standards of workers.

EMERGENCY RELIEF ACT.

Prevailing Wage Rates.—The convention approved the policy pursued by the Executive Council in attempting to have inserted in the Act a provision that the prevailing rate of wages and the thirty-hour week should apply to all relief work.

ENAMELWARE WORKERS

Organization.—A resolution calling for the inauguration of a campaign to organize workers in the enamelware industry and the selection of a competent organizer to supervise the campaign was referred to the AFL Executive Council and President Green for "immediate investigation and all possible aid." The convention was informed that

(Continued on Page 3)

Notice!

This edition contains a Digest of action taken on various subjects by the 55th Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor.

Complete proceedings of the Convention, held at Atlantic City, are now available, in book form, durably bound, at 75c a copy.

The complete report of the Executive Council, as submitted to this Convention, may also be had, in book form, at 25c a copy.

Send Orders Direct to:

AMERICAN FEDERATION
OF LABOR
Washington, D. C.

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 1)

workers in the enamelware industry, including numerous fabricated metal plants, are poorly organized and as a rule are paid low wages.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Election.—The convention elected the following officers of the American Federation of Labor: President, William Green; first vice-president, Frank Duffy; second vice-president, Thomas A. Rickert; third vice-president, Matthew Woll; fourth vice-president, John Coffield; fifth vice-president, Arthur O. Wharton; sixth vice-president, Joseph N. Weber; seventh vice-president, G. M. Bugniazet; eighth vice-president, George M. Harrison; ninth vice-president, Daniel J. Tobin; tenth vice-president, William E. Hutcheson; eleventh vice-president, John L. Lewis; twelfth vice-president, David Dubinsky; thirteenth vice-president, Harry C. Bates; fourteenth vice-president, Edward J. Gainor; fifteenth vice-president, William D. Mahon; secretary-treasurer, Frank Morrison.

F

FASCISM.

The convention reaffirmed its former condemnations of the theory and practice of Fascism. Its declaration on this subject said that Fascist control of government has been secured "by bluff and bludgeon, by threats, torture and terror, by a system of glorified and gory gangsterism, which are the methods of every brand of dictatorship," and that their accession to power has resulted in the destruction of all political and civil rights and the reversal of civilization's normal processes.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY WORKERS EDUCATION.

Cooperation with American Federation of Labor.—The convention declared that although in the administration of workers education established by the division of emergency education of the Federal Emergency Relief Program there had occasionally "been a gesture of cooperation with the American Federation of Labor, it has not been a permanent part of procedure," with the result that supervisors have been appointed with little or no consultation with the officials of state federations of labor" and "have functioned with even less active collaboration." To remedy this the convention adopted the recommendation of the AFL Executive Council imposing upon the president of every state federation of labor the responsibility "for seeing that there is a state director of workers education and that a person who understands the problems of labor is designated for this work."

FEDERAL LABOR UNIONS.

Administration.—The convention nonconcurred in a resolution to amend the constitution of the American Federation of Labor by providing that in sections where the Federation does not maintain a headquarters and a general organizer in charge but has a central labor union charter the administration of a federal labor union in such vicinity shall be under the control of a joint committee representing the city central body and the federal labor union.

Jurisdiction.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution favoring federal labor unions "in so far as such organization does not conflict with the jurisdictional rights of any union now in existence," and declaring that "wherever federal labor unions exist their membership shall remain under the jurisdiction of said federal labor unions."

Monthly Dues.—The convention nonconcurred in a resolution authorizing federal labor unions to fix the amount of monthly dues within each local union, with the proviso that the dues shall include 35 cents per capita tax to be paid to the American Federation of Labor, 5 cents for distress cases, plus a reasonable amount to carry on the business of the local union.

Per Capita Tax.—The convention nonconcurred with resolutions asking the A. F. of L. to consider the advisability of lowering the per capita tax of federal locals to 25 cents.

Unemployment Stamps.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution requiring the "setup of a system of unemployment stamps for federal labor unions so that the members of these local unions directly affiliated with American Federation of Labor will be adequately protected against loss of membership because of unemployment."

FILIPINO EXODUS.

The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in supporting the enactment of a law to transport at federal expense to the Philippine Islands all natives of that country who desired to return to their homeland. It was stated that out of 45,208 Filipinos in the United States it was expected 30,000, most of whom were on relief, would return home.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The convention amended the constitution of the American Federation of Labor by creating a Finance Committee composed of three members of the Executive Council, of which the President shall be one. The committee, with the Secretary-Treasurer, is clothed with authority to invest the surplus funds of the Federation in sound securities or deposit them in a bank or banks in interest-bearing certificates of deposit.

FINKELSTEIN CLOTHING CO.

Anti-Union Policy.—A resolution requesting all members of international unions, federal local trade unions, state federations of labor and central labor bodies to refrain from purchasing clothing manufactured by the Sam Finkelstein Clothing Company until the firm is "fair to organized labor" was referred to the AFL officers and Executive Council with the recommendation that efforts be continued to bring about a settlement of the dispute "guaranteeing the employes the right to organize and to select their own representatives without discrimination." In the event of failure to accomplish this the officers and the Council were instructed to take "such further action as they may deem advisable." According to information presented to the convention, the strike in the company's plant at Norfolk, Va., was called after four members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America "had been discharged for belonging to a trade union" and failure to settle the controversy amicably. It was stated that Sam Finkelstein, owner of the company, had refused arbitration of the dispute by impartial persons, had coerced employes into signing petitions against organized labor, secured an injunction restraining strikers and others from peaceful picketing, and refused to meet William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

FLOUR AND CEREAL MILL WORKERS.

Organization.—The convention directed the AFL Executive Council to investigate the possibility of thoroughly organizing flour and cereal mill workers and urged that state federations of labor render united assistance in organizing the workers in this field.

FOREIGN CEMENT.

In view of the admitted fact that American cement plants are operating at far below their capacities and large numbers of cement workers are unemployed, the convention protested strongly against the use of government funds "for the purchase of foreign cement or any other product that can be produced in our own country by our own labor."

FRATERNAL DELEGATES.

British Trade Union Congress.—The convention elected William J. McSorley and Charles W. Fry as fraternal delegates of the American Federation of Labor to the British Trades Union Congress next year.

Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.—The convention elected M. J. Gillooly as fraternal delegate from the American Federation of Labor to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada next year.

FOOD INDUSTRY EMPLOYES DEPARTMENT.

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution recommending that a conference of the representatives of all international and national unions, local trade and labor unions whose members are employed in the production and distribution of food be convened for the purpose of establishing a food industry employes department in the American Federation of Labor. The resolution pointed out that the thousands of unorganized workers in the industry are a menace to the progress of organized groups.

FORT PECK DAM.

Working Conditions.—The convention instructed the AFL officers and Executive Council to request a Congressional investigation of the wages and work conditions on the federal dam project at Fort Peck, Montana, as well as "the unjust practices of contractors with relations to their employes, laxity, if any, with reference to safety for employes, the housing and sanitary conditions in connection with the project," and to use all possible efforts to organize the workers on the project into unions so that their wages may be "adjusted to the American standard of living." The resolution declared that contractors on the project hire "semi-skilled workers at semi-skilled workers wages to do the work of skilled workers," and that mechanics whose scale rate is $1.20 an hour have been discharged with reemployment offered as helpers at 80 cents an hour.

G

GAS INDUSTRY EMPLOYES.

Overtime Pay.—The convention referred to the Gas Distribution Workers' Union a resolution declaring that gas industry employes shall be paid time and one-half for all hours worked over eight per day or forty per week and that compensatory time for excess hours shall be abolished. The resolution said the tendency of employers in the industry to pay a bonus for overtime deprives the employes of time and one-half.

GENERAL STRIKE.

The convention nonconcurred with a resolution making it mandatory for the American Federation of Labor to approve "general industrial strikes" and "use every means in carrying them to a successful conclusion, including a call to all of organized labor if necessary."

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

Labor Provisions.—The convention endorsed the Walsh Bill, which provides that all persons who sell to the government or enter into any contractural relations with it shall conform to conditions contained in the specifications, the purpose of the measure being to maintain fair labor standards in connection with purchases, loans or grants where federal funds are involved directly or indirectly. The bill, the convention said, "seeks to confirm in legislation the principle that the first charge on any industry is the performance of its duty to society by paying adequate wages and maintaining decent working conditions."

Prevailing Wage Rate.—The convention condemned the practice of the Federal Gover ment of awarding contracts for "manufacture, construction or service without any provision or requirement as to the wages to be paid to the employes engaged on this work," which were alleged to be far below a decent living standard and instructed the Executive Council to endeavor to secure the enactment of legislation "making it mandatory that such employes receive the prevailing rates of wages prescribed by the various trade unions in the various industries, and that the contractor be required to submit wage scales and hours of labor on all contracts."

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYES.

Bonding.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution asking for the enactment of legislation authorizing the Federal Government to bond its own employes. The resolution pointed out that the present law requires employes to secure bonds from private bonding companies at excessive premiums.

Cost-of-Living Wages.—The convention approved the position taken by the AFL Executive Council that any effort to enact legislation which provides that the wages of government employes shall be based on the cost of living should be opposed in every way.

Court of Appeals.—The convention reaffirmed its opposition to the present system whereby government officials "act as judge, jury and accuser" in cases involving dismissal of government employes or reduction in salary, and supported continued effort to secure the enactment of a law providing a Government Employes Court of Appeals.

Employment Standards.—The convention reaffirmed its established policy of supporting standards of employment in public service "in accord with those prevailing in private industry or those sought by the organized labor movement" and instructed the AFL Executive Council to continue its cooperation with the affiliated organizations of government employes in securing the enactment of laws to improve working conditions in government employment with emphasis on the following: Restoration, extension and liberalization of sick and vacation leaves; the elimination of harmful and objectionable speed-up practices; the reduction of night work requirements; the establishment of a Civil Service Employes' Court of Appeals, with employe representation thereon; employe representative on all personnel boards; unqualified adherence to and the extension of the civil service system with the respect to appointment to and tenure in office; the improvement of postal substitute employes and village letter carriers' working and wage conditions; the extension of the shorter work week principle without reduction in wages; equitable upward pay revision; equitable automatic promotion systems for all employes; prompt payment of salaries; extension of the classification principle to those groups which would be benefited thereby and who desire it; prompt elimination of the evils of present so-called efficiency rating systems; higher rates of compensation for overtime and kindred betterments.

Legislation.—The convention adopted a resolution introduced by delegates representing unions made up of government workers expressing the deep gratitude of the members of these organizations for the assistance rendered by the American Federation of Labor and its allies in securing the enactment of legislation repealing wage cuts; restoring promotions, vacations, differentials for night work, the five-day week for postal employes, and numerous other measures. "These very notable victories," the convention said, "would have been impossible without the energetic influence and backing of organized labor and the continuous assistance of its officers."

Overtime Pay.—Acting upon information that thousands of permanent government employes are working 84 hours a week for salaries as low as $50 a month, the convention instructed the AFL Executive Council "to insist that no employes of the government be required to work in excess of 40 hours in any week unless they be granted overtime pay or compensatory time off."

Retirement Law.—The convention reaffirmed its endorsement for the optional retirement of civil service employes of the government after 30 years of service and instructed the AFL Executive Council "to cooperate with affiliated government employes' organizations to secure the enactment of a 30-year optional retirement law."

Subsistence Costs.—Acting on information that the Federal Government requires thousands of its civilian employes to pay for "quarters, subsistence and laundry" not actually used by them and that the charges in many cases are "greatly in excess" of the cost of the materials and services to the government, the convention condemned this practice and supported the principle that quarters, subsistence and laundry should be furnished to civilian employes of the government "only optionally and at cost." The convention was informed that many employes paying these exorbitant prices for these services receive salaries as low as $50 a month.

Wages Restoration.—The convention commended the AFL Executive Council for its success in securing the restoration of the last 5 per cent of the 15 per cent wage cut imposed on government employes by Congress in 1933. The restoration was made restroactive from April 1, 1935.

Widows' Annuity.—Expressing the belief that the failure of the Federal Retirement Law to provide for the payment of an annuity to the widows of the deceased federal employes, the convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to cooperate with the federal civil service organizations in securing the enactment by Congress of the widows' annuity law, which will pay a partial annuity to the widow of a deceased employe.

GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION OF NAVAL VESSELS.

Enforcement of 50 Per Cent Provision. The convention adopted a resolution opposing any reduction in the proportion of naval construction and war munitions now being performed at navy yards and arsenals and strongly urged "the operation of these government plants to their fullest capacity" before any of this work is awarded to private concerns. The resolution pointed out that federal laws now in effect require 50 per cent of naval construction and war munitions shall be performed at navy yards and arsenals, but that organized business is continually seeking the enactment of laws and departmental action designed to reduce this proportion and transfer more of the work to private concerns.

GOVERNMENT MANUFACTURE OF WAR MUNITIONS.

Enforcement of 50 Per Cent Provision. A resolution was adopted by the convention opposing any reduction of the proportion of munitions of war and naval construction now being performed at navy yards and arsenals and strongly urged "the operation of these government plants to their fullest capacity" before any of this work is awarded to private concerns. The resolution pointed out that federal legislation now in effect requires 50 per cent of naval construction and war munitions to be manufactured at navy yards and arsenals; but that organized business is continually seeking the enactment of laws and departmental rulings designed to reduce this proportion and transfer more of the work to private corporations.

H

HAYDON, J. A. P.

Fraternal Delegate.—The convention presented Captain J. A. P. Haydon, fraternal delegate from the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, with an engraved watch and chain as a token of the appreciation of the officers and delegates of his attendance at the convention. The convention presented Mrs. Haydon with a diamond ring.

HEALTH INSURANCE.

The convention urged the enactment of "socially constructed health insurance legislation through Congress and the individual states." The resolution which brought this action pointed out that workers in the United States during times of illness are not only confronted with loss of wages, but are forced to pay "exorbitant medical and hospital bills," which frequently force them into debt and poverty, and declared that although "health insurance has been in successful operation in all industrial nations for more than a generation" it is ignored in the Social Security Act passed by the first session of the Seventy-fourth Congress.

HERNDON, ANGELO.

Chain-Gang Sentence.—The convention recommended that the American Federation of Labor actively cooperate with the Georgia State Federation of Labor in securing the expunging of "whatever remnants of the slave insurrection law may remain on the statute books of Georgia," under which law it was charged in two resolutions that Angelo Herndon, "a young negro labor leader" and "organizer of the unemployed," had been sentenced to from 18 to 20 years in the Georgia chain gang "because of his activities in behalf of labor."

HOPKINS, HARRY L.

Hour and Wages on Relief Work.—The convention expressed its appreciation of the fair attitude of Harry L. Hopkins for the exercise of the power vested in him as Work Progress Administrator to liberalize and rationalize the regulations governing employment on relief work in the field of protecting wages and working hours and for his desire to deal fairly with organized labor.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Petition Rule.—The convention condemned the action of the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fourth Congress in amending the rule requiring 145 names on a petition to withdraw a bill from a commitee by increasing the required number of names to 218. The object of the original rule was to prevent measures from being held up by committee chairmen. The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to endeavor "to liberalize this rule by restoration of at least its former provisions."

HOUSING.

The convention declared that a "long-term public housing policy must be adopted in order to guarantee a minimum standard of decency in housing for all families," and defined "housing" as meaning "not merely dwellings but planned neighborhoods, including adequate educational and recreational facilities and suitable meeting halls for community and social life," with the proviso "that all public-aided housing must be built by labor working at union rates and under union conditions." To implement this policy the convention urged the establishment of properly financed federal, state and local housing authorities with bona fide labor and consumer representation. The convention also urged that local labor housing committees be set up "to represent, protect and promote the interests of labor and consumers in the location, design, construction and management of public housing projects," and authorized the appointment by the American Federation of Labor of a "committee to aid, direct and collaborate with the Labor Housing Conference or other suitable agency in providing information, promoting legislation, developing projects, and protecting the interests of labor and consumers in the housing movement."

I

ICKES, HAROLD L.

Hours and Wages on Emergency Public Works.—The convention expressed its appreciation of the fair attitude of Harold L. Ickes in the exercise of his power as Federal Emergency Administrator of Public Works to secure liberal and rational regulations governing employment therewith, especially for the position he has taken relative to the prevailing wage and for his desire to deal justly with organized labor.

IMMIGRATION.

Kerr Bill.—The convention upheld the opposition of representatives of the American Federation of Labor to the enactment of the Kerr Immigration Bill, which, although it has been characterized as a "deportation bill," was, in the opinion of the AFL Executive Council, "designed to liberalize the deportation sections of existing immigration statutes." The convention held that the Council's opposition to the measure was in accordance with a policy of the American Federation of Labor regarding the necessity of strengthening immigration restriction legislation rather than modifying it or weakening existing statutes.

INDUSTRIAL CODES.

Legislation.—The convention adopted a declaration favoring "legislation which will enable the Government of the United States to protect labor standards and extend protection to the American workers against unscrupulous employers," urged legislation to provide for the "adoption of codes for each industry containing provisions relating to maximum hours and minimum wage rates," and directed the AFL Executive Council to "initiate an immediate campaign for the introduction and passage of the necessary legislation" to accomplish these objects. The proposed law, the convention said, "shall provide that the promulgation and administration of the codes shall be entrusted to boards consisting of equal representation of labor and industry, under the supervision of the government, and that said boards shall be provided with power to impose codes on any industry which fails to accept a code with labor provisions acceptable to such board, and with power to enforce all codes approved or imposed by said boards."

INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM.

The convention defeated by a vote of 18,024 to 10,933 a report declaring that in industries where the work performed by the majority of the workers is of such a nature that it might fall within the jurisdictional claim of more than one craft union or no established craft union, "industrial organization is the only form that will be acceptable to the workers or adequately meet their needs" and directing the AFL Executive Council to issue "unrestricted charters to organizations formed in accordance with the policy herein enunciated." In place of this proposal the convention reaffirmed the action of the 1934 convention, which declared that in organizing "mass production employes" it is "our duty to formulate policies which will fully protect the jurisdictional rights of all trade unions organized upon craft lines and afford them every opportunity for development and accession of those workers engaged upon work over which these organizations exercise jurisdiction." The 1934 declaration added: "Experience has shown that craft organization is most effective in protecting the welfare and advancing the interests of workers where the nature of the industry is such that the lines of demarcation between crafts are distinguishable."

INFORMATION ON STATE LEGISLATIVE PROBLEMS.

Clearing House.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council with approval a resolution directing the Council "to establish a clearing house on state legislative information for the purpose of analyzing legislation affecting labor pending in each state and distribute in summary form the material at stated intervals to the officers of state federations of labor during the legislative session in each state, together with a list of groups which cooperate with labor and a list of groups opposing labor.

INJUNCTIONS IN LABOR DISPUTES.

The convention condemned "injunctions aimed against labor organizations as a most dangerous and treacherous weapon in the hands of the employers and as a shameful violation of the elementary rights of labor" and demanded that "labor injunctions be abolished and courts prohibited from issuing injunctions in labor cases." The AFL Executive Council was instructed to continue efforts to end the "issuance of repressive and tyrannical injunctions, often invading the guarantees of the Constitution itself" and prostituting the judiciary to "an agency for the enemies of collective bargaining, and by thus subjecting certain members of the judiciary to distrust and contempt, tend to weaken respect for government."

INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION.

The convention approved the action of the United States Government in joining the International Labor Organization, and said "for labor it is the fulfillment of the dream first projected by the great founder of the American Federation of Labor, Samuel Gompers," adding: "We shall honor his memory by giving this institution our wholehearted cooperation. We shall do more—we shall build ever stronger the forces of international labor by joining hands with those forces in seeking to advance peace through the promotion of social justice." The convention endorsed the recommendation of the AFL Executive Council that the representatives of labor for the International Labor Conference should be selected a number of months in advance so that they may have adequate time to acquaint themselves with the proposals to be discussed and the procedure of the meetings. The convention recommended full and adequate representation of American labor at the conference and continuation of the policy that the AFL Executive Council select representatives to attend the meetings.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS.

Reaffiliation.—The convention recommended that the President of the American Federation of Labor be empowered to initiate discussions with the officers of the International Federation of Trade Unions with respect to the affiliation of the Federation with that organization and that the AFL Executive Council be given power to act upon such reaffiliation if the discussions initiated by President Green proved to disclose a basis of effective cooperation.

INTEREST.

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution condemning "the present practice of charging excessive rates of interest" by bankers as "unfair and un-American" and "largely responsible for present lack of employment" and urging the enactment of feneral legislation "to control the profit in money to a maximum of 60 per cent above the base price paid the depositor." The resolution stated that "banks are paying an average of less than 2 per cent for money and selling it at a gross profit of more than 200 per cent as against a normal profit of from 50 per cent to 60 per cent prior to March, 1933.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE.

The convention adopted a resolution "in favor of legislation which will declare any and all manufacturing of products, which are intended to be and/or are transported from one state to another, as interstate commerce," and directed the AFL Executive Council "to initiate an immediate campaign for the introduction and passage of the necessary legislation to carry the resolution into effect."

INTERSTATE COMPACTS.

Menace to Child Labor Amendment.—The convention regarded the child labor provisions of interstate compacts providing uniform standard conditions of employment and minimum wages for women and minors as a medium opposed to the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment to the Federal Constitution and warned state federations of labor to exercise the highest degree of care in approving compacts containing provisions governing the labor of children.

ITALIAN-ETHIOPIAN WAR.

Italian Government Condemned.—Declaring that the attack of the Italian Government on Ethiopia is in violation of the Kellogg Pact and the decisions of the League of Nations, the convention expressed its "concurrence with the action of the League of Nations in declaring Italy an outlaw nation which all civilized countries should refuse to assist commercially, financially or in any other manner," and approved the policy outlined by President Roosevelt relative to Italy's acts of aggression against Ethiopia, as well as the neutrality law recently enacted by Congress.

J

JUNEAU MINE AND MILL WORKERS.

Indicted Members.—The convention instructed officials of the American Federation of Labor to use their efforts to have the indictment secured by the Alaska-Juneau Gold Mine Company against 16 members of the Juneau Mine and Mill Workers Union dismissed. The resolution charged that the union members struck last May for union recognition, higher wages, better working conditions and protection against the needless destruction of miners lives and limbs and that the Juneau Company, in an attempt to smash the strike and destroy organized labor in Alaska, was trying to frame the workers and railroad them to jail.

JURISDICTION.

Brewery Workers vs. Teamsters.—The convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council call a conference of the international organizations involved in this controversy and endeavor to adjust it. Previous conventions declared that jurisdiction of teamsters and chauffeurs in the brewery industry properly comes under the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America.

Coopers vs. Carpenters.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council for investigation and adjustment the jurisdictional controversy between the Coopers' International Union of North America and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. Representatives of the Coopers' Union charged that the carpenters had taken into their organization certain men and women "engaged in coopering" and asked the convention to order them turned back to the Coopers' Union.

Flint Glass Workers vs. Glass Bottle Blowers.—With respect to the controversy between the American Flint Glass Workers' Union and the Glass Bottle Blowers' Association of the United States and Canada relative to jurisdiction over the workers employed in the Neon glass sign industry, the convention recommended that a conference between the two organizations be held within ninety days for the purpose of adjusting the matter.

Laundry Workers vs. Cleaners and Dyers.—The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in not extending the jurisdiction of the Laundry Workers' International Union to cleaners and dyers employed outside of laundries.

Loggers, Lumbermen and Saw Mill Workers.—The convention approved the action of the Executive Council in transferring local unions of loggers, lumbermen and saw mill workers to the jurisdiction of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

Masters, Mates and Pilots vs. Seamen.—The convention directed the President of the American Federation of Labor to call a conference of the interested parties within ninety days after the adjournment of the convention to compose existing differences between the National Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots of America and the International Seamen's Union of America.

Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers vs. Federal Labor Union.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution charging that men properly coming under the jurisdiction of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers are included in the membership of some federal labor unions, with the request that such men be turned over to the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers vs. Metal Trades Department.—The convention approved the decision of the AFL Executive Council that the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor did not encroach upon the jurisdiction of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers in an agreement which the Department negotiated with the Anaconda Copper Mining Company in 1934 covering hours, wages and conditions of employment of members of unions affiliated with the Department.

Printing Trades vs. Lithographers.—The convention authorized and directed the President of the American Federation of Labor to bring all parties directly concerned in the jurisdictional controversy between the Printing Trades and the International Lithographers' Protection and Beneficial Association into an early conference to adjust this dispute, with the proviso that if the adjustment is not made within six months after the adjournment of the 1935 convention of the Federation that the Executive Council is authorized to suspend the charter of the Lithographers' Association "until the previous decisions of the American Federation of Labor are observed, or to take such other and further action as will seem to the Executive Council best suited to bring about the desired result."

United Automobile Workers.—The convention defeated the proposal "that complete jurisdiction be given the International Union, United Automobile Workers of America, over all employes in or around the plants engaged in the manufacture of automotive parts or the assembly of such into the complete automobile," and nonconcurred with a resolution providing that all workers in the automobile industry be eligible for membership in the International Union, United Automobile Workers of America.

K

KICK-BACK RACKET.

Legislation.—The convention urged the enactment of legislation to protect employes of contractors on government work from the "kick-back" racket, by means of which employes are compelled to return to the contractor a portion of their wages as the price of the job, and from being discharged or refused further employment for protesting against the "kick-back" racket or other abuses.

KOHLER MANUFACTURING CO.

Anti-Union Policy.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council the long controversy of members of Federal Labor Union No. 18545 employed by the Kohler Manufacturing Company, of Kohler, Wis., with instructions to use all its efforts "to bring about the recognition of the bona fide national and international organizations and the American Federation of Labor, representing employes employed by the Kohler Manufacturing Company," and to consider the advisability of nation-wide publicity of the controversy "by informing all units of the labor movement of the facts regarding it at the earliest opportunity. The Kohler Company manufactures plumbing fixtures, bath tubs, sinks, pottery ware, lavatories, heating plants, radiators, electric light plants and brass plumbing fixtures. According to information presented to the convention, members of the American Federation of Labor Federal Labor Union employed by the company were compelled to strike on July 16, 1934, to enforce the collective bargaining rights. Ever since then the company has opposed all efforts of organized labor to adjust the dispute in the interest of equity for the employes, and as early as July 27, 1934, began the use of violence against strikers when special police under orders of village officials, who were also high officials of the Kohler Company, fired into a mass of people gathered in front of the company's plant, "killing two union men and seriously wounding 42 other men and children, besides gassing scores of men, women and children."

KRESGE COMPANY.

Anti-Union Policy.—The convention condemned the policy opposed to organized labor applied by the S. S. Kresge Company, operators of a chain of five and ten-cent stores, to the Mt. Clemens Pottery Company of Mt. Clemens, Mich., which the Kresge Company owns, and referred the dispute of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters with the company to the officers and Executive Council of the A. F. of L. with instructions to assist the Brotherhood in reaching a satisfactory settlement of the controversy and to notify all state, federal and central labor bodies of the convention's action. In case of failure to adjust the matter, the officers and Executive Council were directed to take any further action deemed advisable. According to information presented to the convention, the company, which manufactures semi-porcelain dinner and table ware, a number of years ago applied the "American or non-union shop plan" and since then has refused all efforts of the Potters Brotherhood to establish a system of collective bargaining. It was stated that recently the management of the company had incited citizens of Mt. Clements to attack an organizer of the Brotherhood and a former employe who were endeavoring to organize the employes and threatened them with bodily harm unless they left the city.

L

LABOR CHEST FOR LIBERATION OF WORKERS OF EUROPE.

Financial Aid.—The convention urged that "all possible moral and financial support" be given to the Labor Chest for the Liberation of Workers of Europe, which was established by the 1934 AFL convention. The report of the Chest stated that over $46,000 had been collected during the past year, of which $21,750 was transmitted to Europe and disbursed through the International Federation of Trade Unions for the relief of labor victims of Nazism and Fascism and $11,553.50 for the relief of the victims of Italian Fascism through the Modigliana Fund. The convention was informed that the Nazi government in Germany has beheaded 120 opponents of the Nazi regime and shot at least 17 trade union officials, while in Italy and Austria the jails are filled with representatives of organized labor whose only "crime" is opposition to the Fascist dictatorship.

LABOR CONFERENCE IN CHILE.

In regard to the forthcoming regional labor conference in Santiago, Chile, called by the International Labor Office, the convention expressed the hope that it would render a real service to the workers and declared that it conflicts in no way with the activities of the Pan-American Federation of Labor.

LABOR DAY.

Community Strikes to Enforce.—The convention nonconcurred in a resolution authorizing the President of the American Federation of Labor to communicate with all affiliated unions urging a one-day strike on Labor Day, 1936, and every succeeding Labor Day in any community where employers refuse to recognize it as a holiday. The resolution pointed out that many workers are not permitted to have Labor Day as a holiday owing to the opposition of employers.

LABOR DRAMATICS.

"The convention commended the development of labor dramatics by certain international unions and workers educational enterprises and recommended that the officers of the Workers Education Bureau, in cooperation with the Permanent Education Committee of the American Federation of Labor, make a study of the developments of this medium of presenting the aims of labor and report their findings to the 1936 A. F. of L. convention.

LABOR PARTY.

The convention refused to endorse the principle of a Labor party, and reaffirmed its approval of the non-partisan political policy which has been applied successfully by the American Federation of Labor for many years and has been supported by frequent convention declarations. The convention approved the report of the AFL Executive Council on this subject which declared that labor and all its friends in the 1936 elections must "support candidates for office who are friendly and sympathetic toward its legislative aims and purposes and defeat those who are against it." One of the resolutions instructed the President of the American Federation of Labor within three months after the close of the convention to communicate with affiliated unions recommending the formation of state labor parties and within one year to call a national congress of state labor bodies to determine whether to launch a national labor party.

LABOR SPIES.

Congressional Investigation.—The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to urge a special Congressional investigation of the anti-labor activities of private detective agencies, frequently called "labor spies," with the view of Federal legislation concerning these organizations. The resolution declared that private detective agencies, labor spies and similar subversive groups are "frequently engaged in establishing and forming company unions or alleged 'employes' associations,' whose only purpose is to make genuine collective bargaining impossible," and claimed that these activities hamper the work of the National Labor Relations Board in administering the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Act.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND LABOR.

Investigation.—The convention referred to the Executive Council a resolution demanding a thorough investigation of the relation of municipal police, private police, private detectives, state police and constabularies, and the militia to trade union organization during any labor dispute. The resolution declared that militia has frequently been wrongly used to attack citizens, depriving many of them of their civil rights, and that "vigilantes and similar illegal bodies have usurped the power of the proper law enforcement agencies."

LEGAL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.

The convention declared it agreed with the purposes sought in a resolution designed to create a Legal Defense Department in the American Federation of Labor and referred the subject to the AFL Executive Council for further consideration. The resolution directed the Executive Council to call a conference of representatives of affiliated national and international unions with a view of providing ways and means for the establishment and maintenance of the department, either by per capita tax or otherwise in order to provide for the department's adequate functioning. It was pointed out that the preservation of workers' rights acquired through the enactment of legislation sponsored by the American Federation of Labor necessitates legal machinery frequently far beyond the means of smaller trade unions to provide, and that consequently rights won by law are lost through inadequate and ineffective representation before courts and commissions charged with law enforcement. It was suggested that the department be set up in connection with the re-establishment of the A. F. of L. legal information bureau.

LINDEMANN-HOVERSON COMPANY.

Anti-Union Policy.—The convention recommended that the AFL officers and Executive Council take up with the National Labor Relations Board the action of the A. J. Lindemann-Hoverson

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(Continued from Page 2)

Company, Milwaukee, Wis., in discriminating against workers who had started a movement to organize the employes of the company, which resulted in a strike on August 30, 1935, of over 600 of the company's employes, and that the Council make every possible effort to adjust the dispute "in such a manner that the right of the employes to organize is guaranteed and maintained." In case of failure to adjust the dispute, the Council and officers were instructed to take "such further action as may be necessary." According to information presented to the convention, the Lindemann-Hoverson Company manufactures the Alcazar and other brands of gas, electric, kerosene and gasoline stoves.

LOCAL UNIONS.

Representation in City Central Bodies.—The convention nonconcurred in a resolution proposing that the representation of local unions in central labor unions should be as follows: 50 members or less, 2 delegates; 100 members or less, 3 delegates; 250 members or less, 4 delegates; 500 members or less, 5 delegates; 1 additional delegate for each additional 500 members or majority fraction thereof.

LOS ANGELES RADIO STATION.

A resolution recommending that the AFL support the application of the Metro Broadcasting Company to the Federal Communications Commission for permission to erelt a radio station in Los Angeles to be operated in the interest of organized labor and to be known as the "Voice of Labor," and that the President of the A. F. of L. be instructed to appoint a committee to urge the granting of the permit by the Federal Communications Commission was referred to the AFL Executive Council. The convention was informed that representatives of the American Federation of Labor supported the proposal and were endeavoring to secure favorable action by the commission.

LOUGHLIN, ANN.

The convention presented Miss Ann Loughlin, general organizer of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, Leeds, England, and a member of the British Trades Union Congress since 1929, with an engraved watch as an expression of the appreciation of the officers and delegates of her attendance at the convention. Miss Loughlin accompanied the fraternal delegates from the British Trade Union Congress.

LYNCHING.

Costigan-Wagner Bill. — The traditional opposition of organized labor "to such transactions of orderly government as the crime of lynching" was reaffirmed by the convention, which also condemned the parliamentary tactics which prevented a vote in the recent session of Congress on the Costigan-Wagner bill, "which would enable the Federal Government to aid states in preventing lynching."

M

MANGANESE DEPOSITS.

Government Ownership.—The convention favored "government acquisition and development of the manganese deposits of the state of Washington and the United States." The convention was informed that the manganese required by American industry, which is now produced in foreign countries by "pauper and convict labor," would furnish employment for a minimum of 7,000 American miners if produced in the United States.

McNUTT, PAUL V.

In acting on a resolution censoring Paul V. McNutt, Governor of Indiana, for the "un-American, unconstitutional usurpation" of power in his proclamation putting martial law in effect in Terre Haute, Ind., in connection with the strike of the employes of the Columbian Enameling and Stamping Company to persuade the company to recognize their union, which action the resolution said placed the National Guard in the "roll of strikebreaking agencies," the convention instructed the AFL officers and Executive Council to notify the Governor of Indiana and the mayor of Terre Haute of the convention's disapproval "of the use of the National Guard, special police and other officers to protect a corporation involved in a labor dispute when the right to organize, the right of free speech and free assemblage are involved."

MEAT PRODUCTS.

Importation. — The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to consider the advisability of legislation designed to increase the tariff on "South American meats," the importation of which by Swift & Company and other companies was alleged to be undermining the farmers cooperative movement and the living standards of workers.

MILITARY AND NAVAL EQUIPMENT.

Government Construction.—The convention referred to the Executive Council a resolution calling for the construction of naval vessels, munitions and other implements of war in government navy yards, aresenals or other government owned or operated establishments for coordination with the general program of organized labor with respect to its program concerning the manufacture of military and naval equipment.

MILITARY AND NAVAL PERSONNEL.

Civilian Work.—The convention recommended legislative or other measures to prevent "military and naval personnel from performing work which should be performed by civilian employes."

MILLER, SPENCER J., JR.

Address to Convention.—The convention approved the address on workers education delivered before it by Spencer Miller, Jr., who has been director of the Workers Education Bureau of America for twelve years, and recommended that his address be published in pamphlet form and made available to the trade union movement.

MINIMUM WAGE LAWS.

A strong recommendation was adopted by the convention urging organized labor to mobilize its strength to secure the enactment of minimum wage legislation for women and minors in the 32 states which have failed to adopt this legislation. Sixteen states already have minimum wage laws. In recommending this action the AFL Executive Council in its report to he convenion said "it is the avowed purpose of the American Federation of Labor to fight to secure for women the same rate of pay as paid to men engaged in relatively the same occupation."

MINORS.

Wages.—The convention approved enactment of state legislation for establishing a minimum wage for minors and urged the inauguration of a campaign to secure the enactment of this legislation in the 32 states which have failed to provide this protection.

MORRELL COMPANY.

Anti-Union Policy.—The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to endeavor to adjust the dispute of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America with the John Morrell Company, meat packers, with plants in Sioux Falls, Ottumwa and Topeka, and if the company refuses to adjust the matter amicably to give moral support to the union in a campaign of nation-wide publicity to the controversy. According to information presented to the convention, the Morrell Company, on March 9, 1935, laid off 103 of the most active members of the Sioux Falls Local of the Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen. Following a four days' strike the dispute was settled by an agreement in which the company reinstated all but 29 of the discharged union men. The company's refusal to reinstate these men resulted in a second strike being called on July 18, which was in operation when the convention acted on the controversy.

MOUNT CLEMENS POTTERY CO.

Anti-Union Policy.—The convention condemned the anti-union shop policy of the Mt. Clemens Pottery Company, of Mt. Clemens, Mich., which was reported to be owned and operated by the S. S. Kresge Company, operators of a chain of five and ten-cent stores, and referred the dispute of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters with the company to the AFL Executive Council with instructions to assist the Brotherhood in reaching a satisfactory settlement of the controversy. In case of failure to adjust the matter, the officers and Executive Council were directed to take any further action deemed advisable. According to information presented to the convention, the company a number of years ago applied the "American or non-union shop plan" and since then has refused all efforts of the Potters Brotherhood to establish a union system of collective bargaining. It was stated that the management of the company had incited citizens of Mt. Clemens to attack an organizer of the Potters Brotherhood and a former employe who were endeavoring to organize the employes and threatened to do them bodily harm unless they left the city.

MUNICIPAL POLICE IN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

Investigation.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution asking a thorough investigation of the relation of municipal police to trade union organizations in labor disputes. The resolution said that law enforcement agencies have frequently made "improper and unwarranted attacks upon the workers."

N

NAESMITH, ANDREW.

Fraternal Delegate.—The convention presented Andrew Naesmith, secretary of the Amalgamated Weavers' Association, Accrington, England, one of the fraternal delegates from the British Trade Union Congress to the convention, with an engraved watch and chain as a token of the appreciation of the officers and delegates. The convention also presented Mrs. Naesmith with an engraved wrist watch.

NATIONAL CIVIC FEDERATION.

Membership Ban for A. F. of L. Officers.—The convention adopted a resolution declaring that "no officer of the American Federation of Labor shall act as an officer of the National Civic Federation or be a member thereof."

NATIONAL GUARD IN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

Legislative Restriction.—The convention condemned the use of state militia and the United States army against the workers in industrial disputes. "These military organizations, when called for duty to a community where industrial disputes exist," the convention declared, "must maintain absolute neutrality in connection with the questions in dispute. They must be as much the protector of the wage earners rights as they are those of the employer. Their sole duty is to maintain order." To remedy this evil the convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council "be instructed to prepare legislation which will prevent any grants of money or federal military supplies to state militias whose activities make it apparent that they are being used in a partisan manner in connection with an industrial dispute."

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RECOVERY ACT.

The convention reaffirmed its belief in the principle of the National Industrial Recovery Act, called for a thorough study to determine "the extent to which former code labor provisions have been and are being destroyed," and pledged the assistance of the Federation to the "permanent continuation by federal legislation of the principles of the NIRA, with adequate labor participation in code making, code administration and reformation." The resolution declared that since the collapse of the NRA code labor standards have been and are being broken down by industry, with the inevitable result of postponing recovery.

NATIONAL LABOR LEGISLATION.

In regard to the report of the Executive Council that ten important labor laws were enacted during the first session of the Seventy-fourth Congress, the convention declared that the "organized labor movement has reason for rejoicing over these victories" and commented with gratification on the "changed public attitude toward remedial legislation and toward the labor movement as the spokesman of the human element in society." The ten laws mentioned by the Executive Council are: Wagner-Connery National Labor Relations Act; Social Security Act; Bituminous Coal Industry Stabilization Act; Air Mail Act providing rates of compensation and working conditions for all pilots; Forty-Hour Week Law for postal employes without reduction in wages; Retirement Act providing pensions for railroad employes; appropriation of $4,880,000,000 for relief of unemployed; repeal of last 5 per cent reduction in wages of government employes made by the Economy Act; appropriation of funds to return 30,000 Filipinos to their homeland; convict labor law prohibiting transportation of prison made products into states having the state use system.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.

The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in securing the enactment by Congress of the National Labor Relations Act providing for real collective bargaining and prohibiting employers from promoting company unions or interfering with the workers right to organize, or discriminating in regard to employment so as to discourage membership in any labor organization, or refusing to bargain collectively with the representatives of organized labor.

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION.

In considering the objectives of the National Youth Administration to find employment in private industry for unemployed youths, to provide employment for youths of certified relief families on work relief projects and vocational training or retraining for youths without specific skill and to spend part time employment to needy college students, the convention declared that although the employment of young people constitutes a serious problem organized labor does not believe that it can be solved by an attempt to find jobs in private industries for this large group until our industries are operating at a higher level and that the problem can be solved permanently only by such changes in our national economy as will provide opportunities to earn a living to all those who need such opportunities.

NAVAL FIELD SERVICE.

Wages.—The convention endorsed a resolution emphasizing the injustice of a special board of the Navy Department in establishing the salary rates of employes of the Naval Field Service. The convention was informed that despite the provisions of the federal law requiring that these employes be placed under the salary rates of the Classification Act of 1923 as amended, the Navy Board "disregarded the principle of equal pay for equal work when compared with the rates of pay allowed for similar work at the Navy Department." In an endeavor to remedy this injustice the convention urged that the personnel classification board of the Civil Service Commission review the final allocation made by the special board of the Navy Department, that the chairmen of the Civil Service Committee of both houses of Congress be requested to investigate the abuses that have developed since the 1923 classification was passed, and instructed the AFL Executive Council to assist in securing favorable action on these proposals.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Adjustment of Navy Yard Employes' Grievances.—Acting upon information that there is no adequate machinery in the Navy Department to adjust a large number of grievances affecting all trades which have developed during the last several years, the convention urged the officers of the American Federation of Labor to give their support to the establishment in the Navy Department of a Board of Adjustment, similar to the Navy Department Wage Board of Review, which is composed of two representatives of the department appointed by the Secretary of the Navy and one representative of labor nominated by the President of the American Federation of Labor and appointed by the Secretary of the Navy, whose duty shall be to hold hearings upon Navy Yard grievances and render decisions in relation to them.

NAVY YARDS.

Displacement of Employes by WPA Workers.—Declaring that men employed in navy yards for many years are being laid off for lack of funds and their places filled with WPA workers at "considerably lower wages," the convention requested the AFL officers "to apply their energetic efforts to the end that this unsatisfactory condition be eliminated."

NAZISM.

German Boycott.—The convention reaffirmed and urged greater vigor and efficiency in applying the boycott upon German made goods and German service decreed by the 1933 and 1934 conventions of the American Federation of Labor, which declared the determination to continue the boycott "until the German government recognizes the right of the working people of Germany to organize into bona fide, independent trade unions of their own choosing and until Germany ceases its repressive policy of persecution of Jewish people."

Olympic Games in Berlin.—The convention recommended that all American sport organizations be prevailed upon not to participate in the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin. "Such articipation," the convention said, "would be used only to confer prestige upon the Nazi regime."

Persecution of Jews.—The convention reiterated the American Federation of Labor's former condemnation of the persecution of Jews by the German government. "No person or public body," the declaration said, "can enumerate the crimes of Nazi Germany without expressing its horror of the persecution of religion in general and the Jews in particular. Upon the crooked cross of Nazism the very teachings of Jesus Christ are being crucified, and the Jews are only the most suffering scapegoats in a campaign against civilization and religion, whether Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, or any other religion."

Persecution of Trade Unionists.—The convention reaffirmed its former denunciations of Nazism with special reference to the inhuman treatment imposed upon trade unionists by the Nazi dictatorship in Germany. "The Nazi government," the convention declared, "exceeded all cruelties known to history in its attempt to establish itself and to insure for itself the spoils of victory. Under the pretext of leveling the German people down to one state of equality, the powerful German trade union movement was stamped out in blood and fire in order to clear the way for an attack upon the living standards of the German working class. We stand with bowed heads before the graves of the many true and tried leaders of labor who were killed in cold blood for their allegiance to labor by Nazi gangsters and we extend a hand of friendship to those in exile or in prison and concentration camps, assuring them of our most sincere and brotherly assistance."

NAZI AND FASCIST REFUGEES.

Asylum in the United States.—The convention nonconcurred with a resolution which proposed extending aid to facilitate the entry into the United States of "fugitives from Nazi and Fascist terror on account of trade union activity or racial or religious affiliation." The convention declared that while it was fully aware of the "terror and persecution inflicted upon defenseless people by the Nazi and Fascist dictatorships, it must direct attention to the fact that the adoption of the resolution would run counter to the immigration laws now in existence as a result of the activities of the American Federation of Labor."

NEWS PRINT PAPER.

Importation.—The convention urged the State Department of the United States Government "to write into the reciprocal trade treaties that are now being negotiated with foreign countries a provision that will place the importation of news print paper upon a quota basis" and instructed the AFL Executive Council "to assist the affiliated unions in the pulp and paper industry in their effort to have news print paper imported on a restricted basis." The resolution pointed out that increased "importation of news print paper manufactured by underpaid labor in mills in foreign countries" has caused a serious decrease in the production of domestic news print paper, "threatens the life of this great essential industry and menaces the jobs and the welfare of thousands of American wage earners employed in mills paying union wages and working under union shop agreements."

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

The convention recorded itself in favor of the promotion of nursery schools and declared that labor in each community should make sure that their community has its full share of federal emergency relief funds for this purpose to afford the young children the rich opportunity for early development which this program assures."

O

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES.

Compensation.—Deploring the fact that very few workmen's compensation laws cover occupational diseases and that manufacturing concerns in states with these laws frequently move to states without them, the convention urged the establishment of federal grants in aid "to match appropriations for the conduct of state-pooled funds for workmen's compensation to cover occupational accidents or diseases."

Investigation of Law Evasion.—In an attempt to overcome the handicap placed on states with occupational disease legislation by states which do not give this protection to the workers, the convention urged that the U. S. Department of Labor investigate the consequences of unrestricted competition in standards of this sort, for the purpose of determining whether "the citizens of progressive states are penalized in interstate commerce by the mining or manufacturing within states which afford little or no protection to the employes."

Federal Health Standards.—The convention also urged that the U. S. Department of Labor set up occupational health standards and devise either legislative measures or trade agreements to require the effective use of these standards by all firms in occupations involving dust hazards.

OFFICE WORKERS.

International Union.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council resolutions urging the establishment of an international union of office workers, who are now organized in Stenographers, Typist, Bookkeepers and Assistants local unions and in Federal Labor unions.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Private Pensions.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council, for "careful and thorough consideration" a resolution opposing the private old age pension plan approved by employers in connection with the Federal Social Security Act.

ORGANIZATION CAMPAIGN.

The convention urged every central labor union to plan an organization campaign to begin not later than December 1, 1935, and instructed the officers of the American Federation of Labor to coordinate the program in every possible way.

ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS.

Agricultural Canning and Packing Industry.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution that the workers in the agricultural canning and packing industry be organized according to the principles of "industrial unionism."

Agricultural, Cannery and Packing House Workers.—In view of the fact that the "growing and processing of foods is the largest single industry in the United States, employing more than three million men, women and children," and because "the present unorganized condition and starvation wage rates of these workers operate in every section of the country to undermine the existing wage rates of organized industrial workers, thus hampering the continued growth and well-being of the entire trade union movement," the convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to "plan a national campaign for the organization of all agricultural, cannery and packing house workers into unions of the American Federation of Labor at the earliest possible date."

Aluminum and Tin Foil Workers.—Acting on information that the plant of the Reynolds Metals Company in Louisville, Ky., is the only one of the company's various plants whose employes are organized in the United Aluminum and Tin Foil Workers Union and that the Louisville union is threatened by the competition of the unorganized branches of the company in other cities, the convention directed the AFL Executive Council to have AFL organizers give all possible assistance to enrolling in the union the workers in the other plants of the company.

Automobile Workers. — The convention congratulated the new International Union of Automobile Workers of America, which was given a charter by the AFL Executive Council on August 26th, 1935, and wished it "success in the great task it has undertaken to organize the automobile workers into one great international union." The union includes in its jurisdiction "all employes directly engaged in the manufacture of parts (not including tools, dies and machinery) and assembling of those parts into completed automobiles but not including job or contract shops manufacturing parts or any other employe engaged in said automobile production plants." The convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council develop a plan for an intensive campaign, in cooperation with the new union, for a nation-wide drive, "backed by the full power of the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated national and international unions," to enroll all auto workers in the ranks of organized labor.

California.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a petition asking for the assignment of a special A. F. of L. organizer for permanent duty in California. The convention was informed that the "unwarranted attacks upon some organizers of the bona fide labor movement by organized bands of hoodlums, vigilantes and other so-called 'law and order agencies'" make it extremely difficulty for the one organizer stationed in California to render as efficient and quick service as occasions frequently demand.

Canton, Ohio.—The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to work out a plan for the more thorough enrollment in trade unions of the workers in Canton, Ohio, where, according to information given the convention, the weakening of the steel unions following the failure of the strike against the Republic Steel Corporation seriously affected the morale of all workers in Canton's 100 industrial plants and made "organization in all lines extremely difficult."

Cement Workers. — The convention adopted a resolution favoring the initiation of an intensive campaign to organize the workers in the cement industry.

Chemical Workers.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution asking that the convention of the American Federation of Labor "take into serious consideration the right of the workers in the chemical industry to form what is known as the industrial organization, allowing such union to embrace all workers in the chemical industry."

Commercial Telegraphers. — Because "the pitifully low wages paid to a large percentage of commercial telegraph employes makes it necessary to charge the lowest dues possible" and "because completing the work of organizing commercial, radio, leased wire and press telegraph workers of all classes is one which requires the fullest cooperation and assistance of all affiliated bodies of organized labor," the convention recommended that the American Federation of Labor give "every possible assistance, morally or financially," to the program of the Commercial Telegraphers Union of North America "to secure wage agreements with all commercial telegraph and radio companies."

Dallas, Texas.—The convention urged all international unions to put their representatives in Dallas, Texas, in a campaign to more thoroughly organize the workers in all trades for the purpose of counteracting the activities of the Open Shop Association, the Dallas Chamber of Commerce and different manufacturing concerns which have used injunctions to jail many striking members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, the anti-union policy of the Texas Centennial Exposition and the general hostile attitude of Dallas employers toward trade unions.

Gas, By-Product Coke and Allied Chemical Workers.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution placing the American Federation of Labor "on record as in favor of the industrial form of union for gas, by-product coke and allied chemical workers of New England."

High Pressure Pipe Industry.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution asking that workers employed in the high pressure pipe industry be organized according to the principles of "industrial unionism."

Hotel, Restaurant, Tavern, Dining Car and Drug Store Employes.—The convention directed the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to urge all local unions of national and international unions, federal and local trade unions, and city central bodies, to cooperate with the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America, in organizing all hotel, restaurant, tavern, dining car and drug store workers coming under the jurisdiction of the international union, and instructed American Federation of Labor organizers to assist in the organization campaign.

Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.—The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in refraining from carrying out the instructions of the 1934 convention to conduct an organizing campaign among the iron and steel workers until internal disagreements in the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers had been smoothed out and recommended that the instructions of the 1934 convention "be put into force and effect at the earliest possible date." The Council reported to the convention that harmony in the Amalgamated Association now permitted the organizing campaign to be launched.

Ivory and Casein Button Workers.—In view of the fact that the Alliance Button Company of Newark, N. J., and the Machine Corporation of Hoboken, N. J., are the only manufacturers of ivory and casein buttons whose employes are enrolled in unions and because the union relations with these firms "are threatened by the competition of the unorganized plants" the convention directed the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to assign as many A. F. of L. organizers as posible "to organize the workers in the plants of ivory and casein button manufacturers throughout the East."

Laundry Workers. — The American Federation of Labor was instructed by the convention to request all A. F. of L. organizers, state federations of labor and city central bodies to mobilize their efforts in the field of organizing unorganized laundry workers and enrolling them in the Laundry Workers' International Union.

Office Equipment Industry Workers. The convention referred to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor a resolution emphasizing the necessity of standardizing wages and working hours of employes in the office equipment manufacturing industry and urging the appointment of at least two organizers to bring about on a national scale the organization of these workers in the A. F. of L. federal labor unions.

Radio Workers.—A resolution directing the President of the American Federation of Labor to call a convention of delegates from all federal labor unions in the radio industry and install a national union was referred by the convention to the AFL Executive Council.

Retail Clerks.—The convention condemned owners of retail stores for increasing hours and reducing the wages of their employes since the abolition of fair practice codes by the decision of the Supreme Court holding the NRA unconstitutional and urged organizers and central bodies to concentrate their efforts in organizing "all retail store employes so that their working conditions may be fairly determined and suitably regulated by collective bargaining methods" and recommended that members of organized labor support the campaign "by pledging themselves to patronize union shops displaying the Retail Clerks' store cards and by consistently demanding the services of union clerks who are wearing the monthly working button."

Rubber Workers.—The convention extended the congratulations of the delegates to the new Rubber Workers' International Union, which was given a charter by the AFL Executive Council on September 12, 1935. The union includes in its jurisdiction all workers in the rubber manufacturing industry "who are engaged in the mass production of rubber products, same not to cover or include such workers who construct buildings, manufacturing or installing of machinery, or engage in maintenance work or in work outside of the plants or factories." The convention recommended that intensive organization work be carried on among rubber workers for the purpose of enrolling them in the new union.

Rubber Workers.—The convention nonconcurred in a resolution asking the A. F. of L. to "formulate an industrial rubber workers union, whereby the organization shall have full jurisdiction over all employes in and around the respective factories without segregation of the employes in the industry."

Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen.—The convention recommended that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to assign as many organizers as possible to carry on "an aggressive and sustained organizing campaign" to enroll all technical employes of engineering and architectural offices, who have been "most shamefully abused in the way of salary reductions and adverse employment conditions," in the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions.

Unemployed Workers.—The convention nonconcurred in a resolution asking the American Federation of Labor to endorse the organization of unions made up exclusively of unemployed workers, but recommended that all national and international unions, city central and state bodies, federal labor unions and local unions and individual union members "be as generous, liberal and helpful as they possibly can to those out of work and unable to secure it." The convention pointed out that the national and international unions have established various methods for the relief of their unemployed members and believe that the conditions do not justify seperate organizations of the unemployed.

White Collar Workers.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution asking that "white collar workers be permitted to organize themselves into industrial unions immediately, with a national executive council."

Workers on Relief Projects.—The convention declared itself in favor of an organizing campaign to bring into the ranks of the American Federation of Labor all workers on government relief projects, whether directly operated by the government or by contractors, and declared that "not less than the prevailing scale of wages shall be paid on any of this work."

ORGANIZERS.

Control by City Central Bodies.—The convention nonconcurred in a resolution demanding that the control of volunteer organizers of the American Federation of Labor be placed with the central labor unions in the vicinity from which they are named.

OUT-OF-WORK STAMPS.

Out-of-Work Stamps.—The action of the Executive Council in making a study of the various methods by which international unions have provided for the maintenance of good standing for unemployed members, in accordance with the direction of the 1934 convention, was approved. It was stated that a copy of the survey had been sent to all the affiliated unions.

P

PANAMA CANAL ZONE.

Employment Conditions.—The officers of the American Federation of Labor were instructed to cooperate with the Canal Zone Central Labor Union to secure the following rights for Panama Canal Zone employes: Permission of chosen representatives of organized labor to be allowed to proceed to Washington under instructions, regardless of position, leave or quarters status; retirement law for Panama Canal and Panama railroad employes after 25 years of service at 55 years of age; provisions for paying widows of retired annuitants of Panama Canal and Panama railroad employes two-thirds of the annuity received by the retired annuitant; more equitable method for handling disability fault cases under the Canal Zone Retirement Laws; provision for a local agent in the Canal Zone of the Public Works Administration; the creation of a resident commissionership for the Canal Zone similar to the ones now in effect for Puerto Rico and the Philippine Islands; continuance of the operation of the Panama Railroad Steamship Line on account of the benefits resulting therefrom to the "Panama Canal, the Panama Railroad and the employes thereof."

Emergency Relief Employes.—The convention instructed the officers of the American Federation of Labor to cooperate with the Panama Metal Trades Council in an endeavor to secure the employment of American citizens on emergency relief projects in the Canal Zone "at wages commensurate with those prevailing on the Panama Canal and the Panama Railroad." The convention was informed this action was necessary to prevent discrimination against American citizens in the Canal Zone for the benefit of aliens.

PAN-AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

The convention declared that the continued relation of the American Federation of Labor to the Pan-American Federation of Labor is of the utmost importance and said "we must recognize the fact that the time may come when a great Pan-American unity of labor will be of supreme importance in preserving freedom of workers throughout the world. The convention approved the recommendation of the AFL Executive Council regarding the advisability of sending a "delegation of good will to the bona fide labor movements of the various nations of Latin America and to the wage earners generally throughout these countries" and recommended that this be done if possible.

POSTAL SERVICE.

Hours.—The convention heartily approved the enactment by Congress of the law providing a 40-hour week for postal employes, declaring that the measure "is of considerable importance to the entire labor movement as applying to government employment the fundamental principle of shorter hours of labor." The AFL Executive Council was instructed to continue its efforts to have the "miles and hours" principle for payment of railway mail clerks enacted into law during the coming session of Congress. This provision was stricken from the 44-hour bill with the consent of the Railway Mail Association because of the association's belief that it endangered the enactment of the law. The convention commended the Railway Mail Association for its stand on this question.

Non-Civil Service Employes.—The convention condemned the practice of introducing "temporary, non-civil service employes" into the postal service because by limiting the number of regular civil service employes the practice "is a menace to the entire civil service system," and expressed its opposition to the use of non-civil service employes in the postal service except during the month of December "when the large volume of holiday mail necessitates an increase in the personnel."

PRIVATE DETECTIVES IN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

Investigation. — The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution asking a thorough investigation of the relation of private detectives and private police to trade union organizations during labor disputes. The resolution declared that private detectives and private police are frequently used by industrial organizations to "foment industrial strikes and destroy the civil rights of the workers."

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

Abolition.—Declaring that private emploment agencies now functioning in competition with city, state and federal free employment agencies victimize unemployed workers and hinder business recovery, convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to sponsor legislation for their abolition.

PRIVATE POLICE IN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

Investigation.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution asking for a thorough investigation of the relation of private police to trade union organizations during labor disputes. The resolution declared that industrial organizations have frequently employed private detectives or private police "who actually foment industrial strife and destroy the civil rights of the workers."

PUERTO RICAN RECONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION.

Labor Representation.—The convention adopted a resolution recommending that the President of the American Federation of Labor "communicate with the President of the United States and earnestly request and urge him to recommend and direct the administrator of the Puerto Rican Reconstruction Administration to appoint a member of the American Federation of Labor in the Island to represent organized labor" on the executive committee set up by the PRRA to carry out rehabilitation work in Puerto Rico under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. The resolution said the committee was composed of 20 persons—lawyers, university professors, engineers, agronomists, doctors and farmers—without a single member of organized labor.

PUERTO RICO.

Improvement in Labor Conditions.—The convention expressed satisfaction with the progress made by the Free Federation of Working Men of Puerto Rico and recommended that the AFL officers and Executive Council continue to assist the Free Federation in their efforts to elevate the living standards of Puerto Rican workers. It was stated that considerable improvement had been secured for the sugar and other agricultural workers and that strikes in the bed and mattress industry and other industries had been satisfactorily adjusted.

Labor Legislation.—The convention pointed out that important laws enacted recently in Puerto Rico for the benefit of the masses include levy of taxes to build model homes for the workers, establishment of subsistence farms for rural workers, electrification and irrigation measures for the elimination of unemployment, exclusive state fund workmen's compensation law, broader homestead laws, the eight-hour day in all commercial and industrial establishments, larger sphere of activity for the Department of Labor, and the establishment of universal suffrage. The convention instructed the officers and Executive Council of the A. F. of L. to support the Free Federation of Workers in their petition to the United States Congress that processing taxes now paid by Puerto Rican citizens under the AAA be used in Puerto Rico to protect the health and general welfare of Puerto Ricans, and to endeavor to secure for Puerto Rico a more generous allotment of emergency relief funds for public works and the extension of the Social Security Act to include Puerto Ricans.

PULLMAN PORTERS AND MAIDS.

Wages and Hours.—The convention congratulated the Pullman porters and maids organized in the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters for their "splendid fight and victory for bona fide representation" and condemned the refusal of the Pullman Company to grant a wage increase to these "underpaid and overworked" employes as a "species of unconscionable exploitation and oppression" and the "essence of an economic policy which is not only unfair, unsound and un-American, but also a method by which the industrial depression is prolonged and unemployment increased." The convention was told that sleeping car porters and maids in an election held under the auspices of the National Mediation Board last July chose the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters as their authorized representative for collective bargaining purposes by a vote of 6,960 to 1,400; that the Brotherhood sought to negotiate an agreement with the Pullman Company providing an increase in basic wage for porters and maids from $77.50 to $93 a month and a reduction in the hours of

(Continued on Page 4)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

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work per month from 817 to 240 hours; that the company refused to grant any wage increase or make any reduction in working time; and that the National Mediation Board, in response to a request of the Brotherhood, took over jurisdiction of the dispute under the Railway Labor Act.

R

RACKETEERING-IN UNIONS.

The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to initiate a "determined campaign to eradicate every sign of racketeering, corruption and gangsterism in the labor movement" and to take "all necessary measures to overcome the resistance of those elements in the trade unions who are today tolerating and protecting these evils." In connection with this resolution President Green directed attention to the action of the Executive Council of a committee of three to confer with Thomas E. Dewey, special prosecuting attorney in New York, N. Y., for the purpose of securing information as to the scope of the probe for racketeering in that city.

RADIO BROADCASTING.

Government Operation.—The convention adopted a resolution directing the officers of the American Federation of Labor "to petition the Congress of the United States for the enactment of legislation wherein all existing radio broadcasting licenses be cancelled at the expiration of the present license period and that all radio broadcasting thereafter be operated exclusively by a governmental agency, to be set up by action of the Congress, with commercial advertising on such radio stations restricted to not more than two hours of each day, of which not more than one hour shall be used for advertising after sundown." The resolution also directed representatives of state federations of labor, central labor unions and local unions interview members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives from their respective districts and states and "secure from them a pledge, if possible, that they will work in Congress for the enactment of this legislation."

RAILWAY MAIL ASSOCIATION.

Forty-Hour Week for Postal Service.—The convention commended the Railway Mail Association for the stand it took in consenting to have stricken from the bill providing the 40-hour week for postal employes the provision establishing the "miles and hours" principle of payment for railway mail clerks. The association believed the inclusion of the provision menaced the enactment of the law and therefore consented to its withdrawal in the broader interests of a shorter work week.

RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACT.

The convention approved the action of the Executive Council in using the influence of the A. F. of L. to secure the passage of the Railroad Retirement Act which provides a system of old age pensions for employes on railroads, express companies and sleeping car companies subject to the Interstate Commerce Act, and because of its great benefits to all railroad employes and its tremendous importance to labor urged that the constitutionality of the law be defended in every proper and legal way.

RELIEF PROJECTS.

Wages.—The convention declared in favor of the prevailing rate of wages on relief projects and urged the AFL Executive Council to do everything possible in this connection.

RELIEF WORK.

Wages.—The convention upheld the AFL Executive Council in its opposition to the "security" monthly wage schedule promulgated by the President for Work Progress Administration projects under the $4,400,000 Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. The schedule divided the country into four zones and fixed the wages of those on work relief from $19 a month in the South for unskilled labor to $85 a month in the North for skilled labor, with rates for intermediate work ranging from $27 in the South to $65 in the North and for professional and technical work from $39 to $94. The convention also supported the Council's persistent demand that the prevailing wage rate plan be substituted for the security monthly wage, and voiced objection to the regional basis for paying wages, which, it was claimed, would make it more difficult to protect the prevailing wage rates which are local and must be fixed locally.

RELIEF WORKERS.

Employment by Agricultural Interests.—Acting upon information that federal and other relief agencies and officials have "cooperated with large vegetable, cotton and other produce growers and agricultural interests to force unemployed workers off relief lists and onto farms and into canneries and packing houses at below union rates and in some cases even below relief rates," the convention declared itself as unalterably opposed to these forced labor practices and the "specifically open cooperation of government agencies and private employers in the agricultural areas."

RYAN, MARTIN FRANCIS.

The convention expressed its "profound feelings of emotion and loss over the passing of that sterling character, Martin Francis Ryan, treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, who died on January 17, 1935. "The Federation and its affiliated unions," the convention declared, "have lost one of their outstanding leaders whose wise counsel will be missed when matters of importance confront the general movement."

S

SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA.

Treaty.—The convention reaffirmed its opposition to the enactment of the Treaty of Safety of Life at Sea and ordered that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

SAVING BANK LIFE INSURANCE.

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution recommending that each state federation of labor take immediate steps, with the assistance of the Council," to bring about the establishment in its own state of a system of life insurance similar to that available to Massachusetts wage earners under the Savings Bank Life Insurance System." The resolution said that under the Massachusetts system "wage earners are able to buy sound legal reserve life insurance at a cost less than half the cost of similar protection in the weekly premium companies."

SECRETARY-TREASURER.

The convention amended the constitution of the American Federation of Labor by abolishing the office of treasurer and creating the office of secretary-treasurer.

SCIO POTTERY COMPANY.

Anti-Union Policy.—The AFL officers and the Executive Council were instructed by the convention to use every possible effort to adjust the controversy of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters with the Scio Pottery Company, of Scio, Ohio, which manufactures semi-porcelain dinner and table ware. According to information presented to the convention, the Scio Company imposed the non-union shop policy on its employes a number of years ago and ever since then has resisted all efforts of the union to organize the workers into a union of their own choosing. It was charged that the company pays very low wages, that women workers are exploited, and that employes have been compelled "to buy stock as a basis of employment."

SHARE CROPPERS.

Federal Investigation of Economic Conditions.—The AFL Executive Council was instructed to give sympathetic consideration to the movement for the organization of share croppers and wage earners on cotton plantations in the South and to support a Federal investigation of their economic conditions. The resolution adopted declared that legislation designed to establish decent labor standards on cotton plantations was endorsed by the American Federation of Labor. The convention was informed that recent disclosures of conditions on cotton plantations "have brought to light the inhuman levels to which the workers employed on them have been reduced, revealing the existence of standards which resemble more closely those of coolie laborers than the standards to which American workers are entitled." It was stated that the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union represents 15,000 agricultural workers and tenant farmers in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

SHENANGO CHINA COMPANY.

Anti-Union Policy.—The convention referred to the AFL officers and Executive Council the controversy of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters with the Shenango China Company, of New Castle, Pa., manufacturers of hotel and restaurant china, with instructions to assist the Brotherhood in every possible manner to reach a satisfactory settlement of the dispute and in case of failure to take any further action deemed advisable. According to information presented to the convention, the Shenango Company broke a two-year wage agreement with the Brotherhood and turned their plant into a non-union shop with heavy reductions in wage rates which compelled the union members to strike in defense of their union organization. It was charged that the company is now operating as a non-union shop, paying wages considerably less than the union scale for pottery workers as established by 95 per cent of the manufacturing potters of America through a wage contract with the Brotherhood.

SHIP SUBSIDY.

American Seamen.—The convention urged the continuance of federal aid to American merchant marine and shipping "in order that this most necessary adjunct to the national defense may be available at all times," with the provisos that shipping interests receiving federal assistance "be required to employ only American born seamen or seamen who are completely naturalized citizens of the United States" and that "officers and crews of all commercial ships flying the American flag be thoroughly trained and disciplined aboard 9merican merchant ships."

SHORTER WORK WEEK.

Union Agreements.—The convention expressed its gratification with the information presented by the AFL Executive Council that 2,035,794 workers in 73 national and international unions have secured a work week of 40 hours or less by union agreements and recommended militant action for the more extensive application of shorter hours by collective bargaining. The report said that 603,989 union members have work hours of less than 40 per week and that 13,806 have won the 30-hour week by agreement. In addition, the efforts of organized labor secured the 30-hour week on PWA projects.

SKILLED WORKERS.

Shortage.—The convention commended the action of the Executive Council in puncturing, by means of a thorough investigation, the canard circulated by an employers association that a shortage of skilled workers had been developed during the depression and the use of this alleged shortage to advocate the lengthening of hours. The Council informed the convention "that there is no shortage of skilled workers if employers are willing to employ union mechanics; that the claim shortage of skilled workers is due to discrimination against union members and is used as an excuse for lengthening hours or undercutting union rates of pay; that instability of employment often forces skilled mechanics to seek work in other occupations; and that an adequate employment service would help to make contact between the employer seeking skilled men and the employe equipped to do the job."

SLUM CLEARANCE AND LOW RENT HOUSING.

The convention declared itself in sympathy with the slum clearance and low rent housing program of the Roosevelt Administration, "which has for its purpose provisions that will furnish employment to those engaged in the building construction industry." The resolution which the convention adopted declared that the Administration's program offers relief "to many families now obliged to live in dwellings which are a constant hazard to health and life," with the object of providing rehousing accommodations which will "conform to the high standards of living set by the people of the United States," and will, in addition, provide jobs for building workers, of whom it is estimated that 49 per cent are still unemployed.

SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.

Amendments.—While approving the policy of unempoyment insurance, old age pensions and federal annuities contained in the Social Security Act passed by the first session of the Seventy-fourth Congress, the convention declared that certain amendments to these measures are necessary in regard to the proportionate share of contributions made by labor, industry and the government in order to prevent the cost burden from being placed upon labor. The convention instructed the Executive Council "to carefully study workers' interests and to introduce such legislation as may be necessary to amend the law so that it will serve the laudable purposes for which it is enacted, and provide for administration which will include adequate representation of labor."

State Legislation.—The convention approved the Social Security Act providing for old age pensions, unemployment insurance and federal annuities, pointed out that states must enact similar social security legislation to make the federal act effective and urged state federations of labor to secure the enactment of supplementary legislation in the different states at the earliest possible date so that all workers may enjoy the benefits of the federal act.

SPEAKERS BUREAU.

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution urging the establishment and support of a speakers bureau in the AFL Union Label Trades Department to furnish the local trade union organizations with "qualified speakers to discuss the problems of the bona fide American labor movement."

STATE CONSTABULARIES IN LABOR DISPUTES.

Investigation.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution asking for a thorough investigation of the relation of state constabularies and state police to trade union organizations during labor disputes. The resolution said that abuse of power by law enforcement agencies has frequently resulted in "improper and unwarranted attacks upon the worker," and said that state labor groups have "opposed the tactics of state police and state constabularies."

STATE LABOR LEGISLATION.

The convention stressed the importance of continued activity by state federations and city central bodies to supplement recent Federal legislation so as to give workers in strictly intrastate industries the protection obtained by the Federal laws for those engaged in interstate commerce, with special reference to laws covering injunctions in labor disputes, old age pensions, prison labor, labor relations laws modeled after the Wagner-Connery Act, as well as more uniform child labor legislation, improved workmen's compensation laws and the ratification of the child labor amendment to the Federal Constitution. To forward this program the convention urged that all national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor urge upon their local unions the importance of affiliating with and supporting state federations of labor and city central bodies.

STATE MILITIA IN LABOR DISPUTES.

Investigation.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution urging a thorough investigation of the relations of the militia to trade union organizations in labor disputes. The resolution said that although by statute the militia is required to function solely for the protection of all the citizens of the state, it has frequently "been wrongly used to attack citizens ruthlessly and so has aided the industrial organizations in a community to control the lives of the people and to deprive them of their civil rights."

Limitation on Federal Equipment.—The convention condemned the frequent use of the state militia "to help destroy the rights of the workers," declared that this practice violates the spirit and letter of the law which created the national militia to protect "the rights of all our citizens against a common enemy," and opposed Federal equipment for the militia under these circumstances. To remedy this evil the convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to support legislation which "will prevent the abusive use of state militia in industrial disputes" and "confine the use of such militia solely to the maintenance of law and order, including protection of the rights and privileges of wage earners with respect to picketing, peaceful assembly, etc." With regard to the use of federal equipment by the state militia, the convention urged the enactment of legislation to establish "impartial non-military agencies or tribunals through which use of federal arms and equipment by militia in industrial disputes shall be immediately investigated and misuse of such equipment be severely punished.

STATE POLICE IN LABOR DISPUTES.

Investigation.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution asking a thorough investigation of the relation of state police and constabularies to trade union organizations during labor disputes. The resolution said that the abuse of power by law enforcement agencies has frequently resulted in "improper and unwarranted attacks upon the workers," and declared that state labor groups have "opposed the tactics of state police and state constabularies."

STRIKEBREAKING AGENCIES.

Federal Investigation.—The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to seek an immediate and thorough federal investigation of the activities of "professional strikebreakers, armed and under cover private guards and under cover operatives" who "spy upon and betray the legitimate activities of the trade union movement" and requested the Council to "prepare an integrated program of federal and state legislation," which with the aid of the state federations of labor the Council "shall strive to have enacted into law to the end that the lawless activities of these agencies shall be brought to an end." The resolution which the convention considered declared that from the Homestead strike in 1892 to the textile strike in 1934 the activities of strikebreaking agencies included shipment of criminals and mercenaries across state lines, violence, destruction of the life, property and liberty of working men and their families, and that several of these agencies "are now concentrating their efforts on the formation of company unions in violation of the Federal Labor Disputes Act."

SWIFT AND COMPANY.

Importation of Oriental Eggs.—Acting on information that Swift and Company and other companies import on a large scale "cheap Oriental eggs and South American meats" to the detriment of the "cooperative movement of the farmers and the standard of living of American workers," coupled with the hostile attitude of these companies toward organized labor, the convention condemned these practices and referred the subject to the officers and Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor with instructions to do all in their power to help the employes and others interested in this controversy, together with the proposition that the evil be remedied by either "increasing the tariff on such products" or by using the "economic and political strength" of the American Federation of Labor and its advertising facilities to bring about an equitable understanding with the companies.

T

TARIFF.

Cement.—The convention instructed AFL officers to endeavor to have the tariff on cement restored at least to the point which was in effect before the last reduction in tariff rates. The resolution pointed out that because of the importation of foreign cement American cement plants are operating below their capacities, causing much unemployment and suffering to workers in this industry.

Eggs and Meat.—The AFL Executive Council was instructed by the convention to consider the advisability of legislation designed to increase the tariff on "cheap Oriental eggs and South American meats," the large-scale importation of which Swift and Company and other companies was alleged to be undermining the farmers cooperative movement and the living standards of the workers.

TEACHERS.

Use of Federal Funds to Prevent Organization.—The convention urged the enactment of legislation to provide "that monies appropriated by the federal government for vocational education, or any other educational work allocated to any state or territory to pay salaries of teachers, supervisors or directors, shall not be paid to any state or any political subdivision thereof which denies to its employes the right to join any organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

Stabilization Bill.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council "for careful study and action in accord with the laws, policies and principles of the American Federation of Labor," a resolution asking the Federation to formally endorse and authorize the legislative committee of the Federation to work for the passage of the National Textile Act, the declared object of which is "to safegiard the textile workers of the country against further degradation of labor standards." The preamble of the bill sets forth that its purpose is to rehabilitate and stabilize labor conditions, prevent unemployment, regulate child labor, and provide minimum wages and maximum hours. In view of the fact that the measure consists of 47 pages of technical references to the technical industry, the convention believed it should be submitted to the Executive Council.

THIRTY-HOUR WEEK.

The convention made the realization of the six-hour day and five-day work week the "paramount objective" of the American Federation of Labor and directed the officers of the Federation "to spare no effort in enlisting the support of all the people" in this effort and "giving the widest scope, direction and publicity" to the shorter work week program.

THIRTY-HOUR WEEK BY LAW.

Black-Connery Bill.—The convention approved the Black-Connery Thirty-Hour Week Bill as a major remedy to create work opportunities for the millions of unemployed and instructed the Executive Council to continue its efforts to have Congress pass the bill.

TRADE UNION BENEFITS.

The convention emphasized the importance of trade union benefits which the Executive Council in its annual report said amounted to $28,240,644.65, classified as follows: Death benefits, $15,011,044.06; sick benefits, $1,023,-814.67; unemployment benefits, $4,487,-802.22; old-age benefits, $2,512,939.09; disability benefits, $3,176,612.62; miscellaneous benefits, $1,405,540.28. The convention recommended that the delegates bring to the attention of their membership "this phase of trade union activity within the American Federation of Labor."

TRADE UNIONS.

Citizenship of Members.—The convention recommended that all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor be requested to assist all alien members to secure citizenship papers. This action was taken in connection with a resolution recommending that "the constitution and by-laws of the American Federation of Labor and the constitution and by-laws of its various locals throughout the United States be amended so as to provide that all workers within the American Federation of Labor be qualified American citizens or shall have duly applied for such citizenship." Although approving the policy of encouraging trades unionists in Canada and the United States to secure citizenship, the convention held that the American Federation of Labor is without authority to provide such requirements.

Rules.—The convention nonconcurred with a resolution demanding "trade union democracy," including election of officials by popular secret ballot, the right of union members to recall officials before the expiration of their terms, submission of trade union agreements and amendments to the constitution and other questions affecting the interests of the membership to a referendum vote, the right of local unions to start referendums and declare strikes and requiring officials of national and international unions to call conventions in accordance with the constitutions of their organizations and a rule making conventions mandatory every two years. In disagreeing with the resolution the convention said the democratic policy of the American Federation of Labor already provides that "every affiliated organization shall have autonomy in determining the rules and procedure for their self government."

Maintenance of Out-of-Work Members in Good Standing.—The convention nonconcurred with a resolution requesting the AFL Executive Council "to consider proposing to the international unions a plan to maintain the members who are out of work in good standing with their various organizations, so that suspension because of non-payment of dues may be reduced."

U

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF.

Means Test.—The convention condemned the so-called Means Test, frequently applied by agencies which administer federal relief, and directed the AFL Executive Council to use every means at its command to end this practice, which was described as "anti-social in principle and in practice" because it compels the unemployed worker to declare that he has become a pauper.

UNFAIR LIST.

In considering a number of resolutions requesting the American Federation of Labor to place on organized labor's unfair list concerns which refuse to deal with union representatives and apply a general anti-union policy, the convention declared that the experience of the American Federation of Labor has shown "it is extremely advisable to proceed cautiously before such action is taken" and suggested that "best results are accomplished when every possible effort" is made to settle the controversies.

UNION GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION.

Trade Union Support.—A resolution was adopted by the convention endorsing the plan of the Union General Hospital Corporation to erect a hospital building in New York City and recommended that "affiliated bodies give full cooperation to this much needed service." The resolution said the purpose of the corporation is to place standard hospitalization, including medical and surgical service, within the reach of the ordinary workers and their families at a minimum cost.

UNION LABEL TRADES DEPARTMENT.

The convention endorsed the work of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor for its activities in promoting the demand for union made articles, with especial emphasis on the Department's publicity and advertising campaign, which included the use of cartoons and posters, the radio, and participation in trade union conferences and conventions.

UNION-MADE PAINT BRUSHES.

The convention adopted a resolution that the Executive Council when it shall have agreed upon and authorized an appropriate label for use on paint brushes, that all local branches and trade councils be notified of the action and urged to stress the importance of demanding the label on this class of goods.

UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

A number of resolutions were presented to the convention urging amendments to the Constitution of the United States. Most of them concerned the power of Congress to enact laws for the benefit of the masses and the Supreme Court's authority to invalidate statutes. In reporting to the convention on this matter the Resolutions Committee said: "Some of the resolutions proposed that the Supreme Court be denied the power to declare unconstitutional any municipal, state or federal legislative enactment; others would enlarge the legislative powers of Congress, either by enlarging the conception of interstate commerce, or by specifically providing for congressional power to enact social legislation. The recommendation is also made that the power to declare legislation unconstitutional can only be exercised by a two-thirds vote of the members of the United States Supreme Court." In view of the fact that the AFL Executive Council had already studied the subject matter of the resolutions, the convention recommended that they be referred to the Council "with instructions to draft an amendment and have it submitted to Congress."

UNITED STATES EMPLOYES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION.

Independent Status.—Declaring that "the United States Employes' Compensation Commission was originally established largely at the urging of the American Federation of Labor to administer injury compensation laws covering government workers, and since its establishment it has performed its important functions in a humane way, satisfactory to all concerned," the convention reaffirmed "its approval of the commission and its administration and its maintenance as an independent establishment."

UNITED STATES EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.

Educational Requirements.—The convention condemned the policy of the United States Employment Service in insisting upon formal education to the exclusion of education experience in its administration. It was claimed that this policy deprives the service of the practical experience union executives and other employes essential to wise administration. To remedy this the convention urged "that where now formal education is a prerequisite to eligibility for appointment to positions within the service that provisions be made whereby, as an alternative and in the absence of such formal education, educational experience such as that gained in the field of labor shall be substituted as a standard of eligibility, to the end that men and women who have had practical experience in the field of labor and labor organizations may be in a position to cooperate fully in the administration of the various federal and state employment services and agencies." The convention added that the American Federation of Labor "will coperate whole-heartedly with the state and federal agencies in the work of developing a nation-wide public employment service of the highest order."

UNITED STATES NAVY.

Construction Plans.—The convention urged the use of necessary executive and legislative action to inaugurate the policy of "having all designs and plans for naval construction performed directly by employes of the Federal Government." The resolution declared that this was in accordance with the action of the conventions of the American Federation of Labor favoring the manufacture or war munitions and naval construction in the arsenals and naval establishments of the government."

UTILITY OPERATORS' ASSOCIATION.

Labor Contracts with Public Utility Corporations.—The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council to submit to the Attorney General of the United States and the Interstate Commerce Commission the labor contracts made by the Utility Operators' Association with the Illinois Power and Light Company and other public utility corporations, with a request for interpretations of the legality of the contracts, and urged the Council to endeavor to provide methods for protecting the right of the employes "to bargain collectively as free citizens." The resolution which the convention considered declared that the contracts in question are illegally used by employers as effective instruments to prevent bona fide collective bargaining and deny the employes "the equal right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

V

VIGILANTES.

A resolution declaring that "vigilantes and similar illegal bodies have usurped the power of the proper law enforcement agencies" in labor disputes was referred to the AFL Executive Council with the request for a thorough investigation of the activities of these groups.

W

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Adjustment of Arsenal Employes' Grievances.—Acting upon information that there is no adequate machinery in the War Department for adjusting a large number of grievances of employes in the arsenals and in the several activities of the Chief of Engineers, the convention urged the officers of the American Federation of Labor to give their support to the establishment in the War Department of a Board of Adjustment similar to the Navy Department Wage Board of Review, which is composed of two representatives of the Navy Department appointed by the Secretary of the Navy and one representative of Labor nominated by the President of the American Federation of Labor and appointed by the Secretary of the Navy, with the duty of holding hearings upon the grievances of the employes at arsenals and under the Chief of Engineers and render decisions in relation to them.

WPA PROJECTS.

White Collar Workers.—Acting on information that on WPA projects the practice is applied of underrating the skilled status of workers with the consequence of putting white collar workers in the place of manual and other workers, the convention adopted a resolution condemning this practice and urging the thorough organization of white collar workers on WPA jobs for the purpose of securing union conditions for them.

"WE DON'T PATRONIZE" LIST.

With regard to a number of resolutions requesting the American Federation of Labor to place on organized labor's "We Don't Patronize" list concerns which refuse to deal with union representatives and apply a general anti-union policy, the convention declared the experience of the American Federation of Labor has shown "it is extremely advisable to proceed cautiously before such action is taken" and suggested that "best results are accomplished when every effort" is made to settle the controversies.

WILSON AND COMPANY.

Anti-Union Policy.—The convention instructed the AFL Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to work jointly with officials of Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America to adjust the industrial dispute of the union with the company which resulted in a strike last summer at the company's plant in Oklahoma City, Okla. In case the company "refuses to adjust the matter on a fair and equitable basis," the Council was instructed to consider the advisability of supporting the Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union "in giving wide publicity to the controversy."

WOMEN WORKERS.

Wages.—The convention urged a drive to secure the enactment of minimum wage laws for women and minors in the different states which have not already adopted this legislation. Sixteen states already have minimum wage laws. The AFL Executive Council's report on this question, which the convention adopted, declared "it is the avowed purpose of the American Federation of Labor to fight to secure for women the same rate of pay as paid to men engaged in relatively the same occupation."

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

The convention urged organized labor in the three states—Arkansas, Mississippi and South Carolina—which do not have workmen's compensation laws to mobilize their efforts to secure the enactment of this social justice legislation and also stressed the importance of securing provisions for more adequate compensation awards in existing compensation laws.

WORKERS EDUCATION BUREAU.

The convention endorsed the various activities of the Workers Education Bureau of America, urged all national and international unions not only to continue but to increase their contributions to the bureau and strongly recommended all state federations of labor and central bodies to undertake "active affiliation with the bureau so that this great arm of labor can adequately be supported by labor."

Y

YOUTH.

Organization.—The convention nonconcurred with a resolution instructing the American Federation of Labor to urge American youth in industry to join A. F. of L. locals; open a drive to build unions in "youth" trades; urge "all international, local trade and federal labor unions to devise special youth forms of activity such as labor sports leagues, trade union workers schools to teach the principles of unionism," and designate "special youth committees to encourage and foster organization amongst young people." The convention held that ever since 1830, when the trade unions in the United States were the main supporters of the movement "to establish free public schools so that every wage earner's child would be given an elementary education," organized labor had fostered measures for the protection and education of youth, and that now there is no essential need for special youth organizations in the labor movement.

55TH ANNUAL AFL CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 1)

that the thirty-hour week be made universal throughout the United States, and declared that for the realization of this paramount "objective" both the economic and legislative forces of the organized labor movement must be mobilized.

In addition to its bold and militant declaration on this subject, the convention took a strong position on every other matter of interest to the masses of labor.

To keep the labor movement free for its constructive program the convention amended the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor to provide that no organization officered or controlled by Communists and no person espousing communism or advocating the violent overthrow of our institutions shall be allowed representation or recognition in any Central Labor Union or State Federation of Labor.

The action of the convention on a large number of subjects, based on the official proceedings, is recorded in this special issue of the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service.

Wherever possible, a portion of the text of the convention's declarations is quoted in order to clarify the action itself.

GREEN OPPOSES GERMAN STEEL

(Continued from Page 1)

distress in the United States, it is difficult for Labor to understand how said funds could be used for the purpose of buying material manufactured in Germany. Such action seems contradictory to the aims and purposes of the Public Works Relief Measure.

"Public Works Relief funds spent for the purchase of material manufactured in Germany would serve to create employment for German workers, while American working men who are thoroughly qualified and are seeking an opportunity to produce the same material, are idle.

"American Labor contends that PWA funds appropriated for relief purposes by Act of Congress should be used for the purpose of creating work opportunities for the millions of American working men who are idle and who have been idle for more than five years.

"Intense feeling is being aroused among the working people throughout the nation through the publication of reports that the contract for steel to be used in the construction of the Triborough Bridge in New York will be awarded to German steel manufacturers."

This vigorous protest filed by the President of the American Federation of Labor was supplemented by a protest from the officers of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers in behalf of the membership of that organization.

President Green stated that it seemed inconceivable that Public Work Relief funds could or would be used in the purchase of material manufactured abroad. Resentment on the part of Labor against such action would be widespread and deep seated.

CANVAS GLOVE COMPANY VIOLATES UNION PACT

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York, N. Y.—The renewal of the glove workers strike at the Canvas Glove Manufacturing Company's plant in Brooklyn reveals the disreputable methods which anti-union employers will use in order to impose low wages by preventing the organization of their employes in bona fide unions.

The original strike, which was conducted against this concern by the New York Women's Trade Union League, the International Glove Workers' Union, was settled on October 10.

According to officials of the Trade Union League, the agreement drawn between the employer and Local 68 of the Glove Workers' Union provided for a preferential union shop, restoration of the last wage cut and additional wage increases of approximately 10 per cent for all workers in the shop. The working week, formerly 48 and 50 hours, was cut to 40 with five hours' overtime permitted weekly and no work on Saturday. Deductions for broken needles or machine repairs, a former practice, was prohibited.

The agreement, which was to run for 19 months, was signed at the office of Elias Lieberman, well-known labor attorney, who generously volunteered his services in the negotiations and settlement. Irving Largay of the Mediation Service of the State Department of Labor and Eleanor Mishnun, organizer for the Trade Union League, participated in the final settlement.

In a statement giving the reasons for the renewal of the strike, the League said:

"Unfortunately, the employer, Mr. Gerber, immediately began violating the contract; he refused to reinstate four union members, he laid off several others, including the vice president of the union, at the same time that he hired new girls. He also discriminated against union girls in the division of work, and a few days after the settlement he organized a company union. When the union girls refused to join the company union, every method was used to force them into it.

"The climax came on October 21 when the shop committee attempted to discuss their grievances with the employer. He insulted them and finally threw them out of his office. The union girls then walked out in a body. The union requested arbitration as provided for in the agreement, but so far no reply has been forthcoming from the employer, and a bitter strike is now being waged.

"There have been several arrests of strikers on trumped-up charges. Helen Blanchard, assistant organizer of the League, was also arrested on a disorderly conduct charge. The conduct of the police has been so unwarranted that complaints have been sent by the League to Commissioner Valentine, who has ordered an investigation.

"The spirit of the strikers remains unbroken, and with the help of some of the Brooklyn unions we hope to bring about a lasting victory."